



USA Explosion wins Boise Blast

The USA Explosion/DFM U16 softball team claimed the Boise Blast Shootout championship on Sunday in Boise, Idaho. The team went 5-1 in the three-day tournament, including a 10-7 come-from-behind win in the title game. Pictured, back, left to right: Coach Lin Casciato, Allie Brock, Coach Mike Brock, Ellie Lankford, Katie Bradt, Aspen Garton, Jaiden Hafer, Coach Jamie Seavert, Manager Kelsy Garton. Middle: Carissa Cooley, Kara Gooderham, Maddie Plew, Sami Spriet, Kirah McGlothlan. Front: Jaycee Seavert.

Contributed photo from John Bradt

CWS: LSU misses on two chances to tie game late

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starting pitching has carried us the whole year, but we got some timely hits.”

Florida was in the CWS for the 11th time and previously had made it to the finals in 2005 and 2011, getting swept each time.

“They’re a very deserving national champion,” LSU coach Paul Mainieri said. “I’m happy for Kevin. He works hard, and he has had several teams that maybe were even better than this team and sat up here as disappointed as I am right now. Finally got his championship.”

Freshman Tyler Dyson (4-0) limited the Tigers to three hits in six innings in only his second start, and the Gators capitalized on LSU errors in the first and second innings to go up 2-0 against Jared Poche (12-4).

Things got interesting after Michael Byrne relieved Dyson in the seventh. LSU pulled to 2-1 and would have tied it if not for Jake Slaughter being called for runner interference at second base for sliding into shortstop Dalton Guthrie’s leg as he was throwing to first to turn a double play. Josh Smith, who had run home, was sent back to third, and Beau Jordan flew



AP Photo/Nati Harnik

Florida shortstop Dalton Guthrie, top, falls after being hit by LSU’s Jake Slaughter at second base on a double play during the seventh inning in Game 2 of the College World Series finals in Omaha, Neb. on Tuesday. Slaughter was called for runner interference on the play, disallowing what would have been the game’s tying run to score from third base.

out to end the inning.

Kramer Robertson punched a single into right field leading off the eighth and took second on a wild pitch. The Tigers had runners on the corners when Cole Freeman beat Byrne’s throw to first for a bunt single. After Byrne struck out Antoine Duplantis, Jackson Kowar, who would have been Florida’s starter in Game 3, came on to face Greg Deichmann.

Deichmann grounded Kowar’s first pitch to first, and JJ Schwarz threw out

Robertson at the plate on a play that stood after a video review. Zach Watson, the Tigers’ hottest hitter in the CWS, then flew out to end the inning.

The Gators scored four times in the bottom of the eighth. LSU reliever Zack Hess hit a batter with the bases loaded, Deacon Liput hit a two-run single and Schwarz had a sacrifice fly.

Last year was supposed to be O’Sullivan’s best chance to win it all. The Gators were the No. 1 national seed for the NCAA Tournament,

and they had eight players who were taken in the first 10 rounds of the 2016 Major League Baseball draft. They went two games and out.

Florida this year brought back one of the nation’s top weekend rotations in Alex Faedo, Brady Singer and Kowar and a reliever in Byrne who led the country with a school-record 19 saves. Complementing the pitching was a defense that ranked in the top 10 in the country.

All that was missing was consistent offense. The Gators came into this game with no everyday player hitting .300, and they were ranked 227th out of 300 teams with a .258 batting average.

The pitching overshadowed all shortcomings, and the Gators ended up with the No. 3 national seed after sharing the SEC regular-season title with LSU.

“I don’t think anybody thought we would get to this point,” O’Sullivan said. “We had our struggles throughout the year offensively. In mid-March we were hitting about .230 as a team. They kept working and believing, and I told them before the season started that we had what it took, the ingredients, to pull this thing off.”

MARINERS: Close out two-game series today

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the bases on a double by Franco, Cameron Perkins’ infield single and a walk to Cameron Rupp. Ty Kelly followed with a sacrifice fly to center, with Perkins advancing to third. Daniel Nava delivered a sacrifice fly to right.

Segura staked the Mari-

ners to a 2-0 lead with two outs in the third with his fifth home run, a two-run shot to right with Jarrod Dyson aboard on a walk.

Franco also helped preserve the lead in the seventh with a two-out diving stab at third of Segura’s hard-hit grounder with a runner at second.

Seattle threatened in

the sixth when Ben Gamel walked leading off and moved to third on Robinson Cano’s single. Nola escaped by striking out Nelson Cruz for the third time and enticing Kyle Seager into a double-play grounder.

UP NEXT: Phillies: RHP Mark Leiter Jr. (1-0, 3.60 ERA) makes his second start to

close out the two-game series at Safeco Field on Wednesday afternoon. Leiter picked up his first MLB victory in his last start, allowing just three hits in six innings at Arizona.

Mariners: Felix Hernandez (3-2, 4.68 ERA) makes his second start since coming off the Disabled List.

Supreme Court to review New Jersey bid for legal sports betting

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to take up New Jersey’s bid to allow sports betting at its casinos and racetracks, a case that could lead other states to seek a share of the lucrative market.

The justices will review a lower court ruling against the state, which is hoping to capture some of the estimated \$150 billion that is illegally wagered on sports each year.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and supporters in the state Legislature have tried for years to legalize sports gambling to bolster the state’s casino and horse racing industries. The casino industry, after a period of job losses and closings, has lately been doing better.

New Jersey state Sen. Raymond Lesniak, a Demo-

crat who has led the state’s effort to legalize sports gambling, said a win for the state would give an additional boost to casinos.

“Atlantic City is going to be packed when we win this case,” said Lesniak, who first introduced legislation to overturn the ban in 2009. “Sports betting will lead to people staying for several days, not just playing a few hours and going home. During football season, the NCAA tournament, the World Cup, people will be flocking to Atlantic City to bet on them.”

The case will be argued in the fall. Daniel Wallach, an attorney in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and an expert in sports law, said the case could lead to a nationwide repeal of the federal sports betting ban.

Speaking on a sports radio show this month, Christie criticized the federal government for restricting sports betting while simultaneously allowing states to legalize recreational marijuana even though it’s illegal under federal law.

Legal sports gambling is allowed in Nevada and three other states that already had approved some form of wagering before the federal law went into effect. Nevada is the only state to allow single-game wagering.

Congress gave New Jersey a one-time opportunity to become the fifth state before the ban was enacted, but the state failed to pass a sports betting law in the required time window.

Arizona, Louisiana, Mississippi, West Virginia and Wisconsin had joined New Jersey’s effort to have the case heard by the Supreme Court.

DAHLBERG:

Continued from 1B

to the minor league ballpark believe. He may not even believe it himself after hitting three home runs while striking out 69 times with the Columbia Fireflies.

That got Tebow a promotion in the Mets organization that even team officials found difficult to explain. That it’s in a state where he won the Heisman Trophy as the quarterback for the University of Florida not so many years ago seems to be a little more than a coincidence.

But, really, what is the harm? Tebow will put more fans in seats, and they will be happy fans because they will get a chance to be close to someone they idolize.

The same goes for McGregor fighting Mayweather. The fight may be a mismatch, but no one is forcing anyone to pay to watch it. If McGregor’s fans want to blow their summer vacation money on him, well, that’s their choice.

I mean, the Cleveland Browns aren’t really competitive either, but that doesn’t stop thousands of fans from putting down money every year for season tickets to watch their team.

That sports are really just entertainment with a score attached shouldn’t come as much surprise to anyone at the ballpark. Batters have their own walk-up music, mascots roam the stands, and every football game offers some kind of halftime attraction to keep ticket buyers interested.

The best thing happening in Atlanta right now isn’t the Braves playing in a spanking new stadium. It’s The Freeze, a costumed superhero who outruns a hapless fan between innings and has become so

popular that he’s knocked the sausage race out of the nightly ESPN highlights.

Want some dancing to go with your baseball? Check out the groundskeepers for the Yankees breaking out to “Y.M.C.A.” between innings.

Again, nothing new. Bill Veck was the owner of the St. Louis Browns in 1951 when he had the idea to put in Eddie Gaedel to pinch hit in a game. Gaedel, who stood all of 3-foot-7 and had the uniform number 1/8, drew a walk in his only plate appearance.

“For a minute, I felt like Babe Ruth,” Gaedel said.

It’s all entertainment. Some good, some bad, and some that will be remembered for all the wrong reasons.

McGregor and Mayweather are merely entertainers themselves. They’ll sell their fight with trash talk and stunts that will be far more fun than the bout itself and no one will be able to say they weren’t forewarned about what was going to happen.

Tebow, meanwhile, is a one-man franchise. He sells jerseys from two sports and stirs a passion in his fans that can’t — and shouldn’t — be ignored. Parents bring the kids to see him, and when they do, the talk is about Tebow as a football player and a devout Christian, not about his prospects of making it to the major leagues.

No, it’s not sport at the highest level. Far from it, on the field or in the ring.

Remember, though, nobody is forcing you to buy a ticket.

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SCOREBOARD

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	43	34	558	—
New York	41	34	547	1
Tampa Bay	41	38	519	3
Baltimore	38	38	500	4½
Toronto	36	40	474	6½
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	40	36	526	—
Minnesota	39	36	520	½
Kansas City	37	38	493	2½
Detroit	34	42	447	6
Chicago	33	43	434	7
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	52	26	667	—
Los Angeles	41	40	506	12½
Texas	39	38	506	12½
Seattle	39	40	493	13½
Oakland	35	42	455	16½

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	46	31	597	—
Atlanta	37	39	487	8½
Miami	35	40	467	10
New York	34	42	447	11½
Philadelphia	25	51	329	20½
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	41	38	519	—
Chicago	39	38	506	1

W	L	Pct	GB	
St. Louis	35	41	460	4½
Pittsburgh	35	42	455	5
Cincinnati	32	44	421	7½
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	52	27	658	—
Arizona	50	28	641	1½
Colorado	47	32	595	5
San Diego	31	46	403	20
San Francisco	28	51	354	24

TUESDAY'S GAMES				
Tampa Bay 4, Pittsburgh 2, 10 innings	Washington 10, Chicago Cubs 1			
Cincinnati 8, Milwaukee 6	Miami 6, N.Y. Mets 3			
Atlanta 5, St. Louis 4, 10 innings	Atlanta 3, San Diego 0			
L.A. Dodgers 4, L.A. Angels 0	Philadelphia 8, Seattle 2			
Colorado at San Francisco, late finish	Philadelphia (Leiter Jr. 1-0) at Seattle (Hernandez 3-2), 12:40 p.m.			
Colorado (Freeland 8-5) at San Francisco (Blach 4-5), 12:45 p.m.	Chicago Cubs (Lackey 5-8) at Washington (Strasburg 8-2), 4:05 p.m.			
Tampa Bay (Snell 0-4) at Pittsburgh (Nova 7-5), 4:05 p.m.	Milwaukee (Anderson 6-2) at Cincinnati (Castillo 0-0), 4:10 p.m.			
N.Y. Mets (Matz 1-1) at Miami (Locke 0-3), 4:10 p.m.	St. Louis (Wainwright 7-5) at Arizona (Godley 3-1), 6:40 p.m.			
L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 3-6) at L.A. Angels (Meyer 3-4), 7:07 p.m.	Atlanta (Garcia 2-5) at San Diego (Perdomo 2-4), 7:10 p.m.			

ALL-STAR FAN VOTING				
Released June 26				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
Catchers				
1. Salvador Perez, Royals, 2,150,223	2. Gary Sanchez, Yankees, 1,337,651	3. Brian McCann, Astros, 1,330,042	4. Welington Castillo, Orioles, 1,050,023	5. Carlos Santana, Indians, 895,482
First Basemen				
1. Eric Hosmer, Royals, 1,419,887	2. Justin Smoak, Blue Jays, 1,348,233	3. Yonder Alonso, As, 1,076,984	4. Miguel Cabrera, Tigers, 1,011,382	5. Carlos Santana, Indians, 895,482
Second Basemen				
1. Jose Altuve, Astros, 2,925,041	2. Starlin Castro, Yankees, 1,737,446	3. Jason Kipnis, Indians, 957,179	4. Whit Merrifield, Royals, 589,154	5. Dustin Pedroia, Red Sox, 551,841
Third Basemen				
1. Miguel Sano, Twins, 1,550,240	2. Jose Ramirez, Indians, 1,341,076	3. Josh Donaldson, Blue Jays, 1,191,244	4. Mike Moustakas, Royals, 1,067,150	5. Manny Machado, Orioles, 946,013

SHORTSTOPS				
1. Carlos Correa, Astros, 2,229,857	2. Francisco Lindor, Indians, 1,648,532	3. Didi Gregorius, Yankees, 1,069,822	4. Xander Bogaerts, Red Sox, 982,987	5. Troy Tulowitzki, Blue Jays, 783,649
Designated Hitters				
1. Nelson Cruz, Mariners, 1,366,962	2. Corey Dickerson, Rays, 1,267,234	3. Edwin Encarnacion, Indians, 1,186,483	4. Matt Holliday, Yankees, 1,107,847	5. Evan Gattis, Astros, 885,391
Outfielders				
1. Aaron Judge, Yankees, 3,442,597	2. Mike Trout, Angels, 2,569,173	3. George Springer, Astros, 1,619,385	4. Michael Brantley, Indians, 1,325,473	5. Avisail Garcia, White Sox, 1,292,694
6. Mookie Betts, Red Sox, 1,223,195	7. Jose Bautista, Blue Jays, 1,065,645	8. Carlos Beltran, Astros, 1,054,503	9. Brett Gardner, Yankees, 889,616	10. Lonnie Chisenhall, Indians, 885,443
11. Andrew Benintendi, Red Sox, 869,774	12. Lorenzo Cain, Royals, 829,284	13. Josh Reddick, Astros, 827,203	14. Kevin Pillar, Blue Jays, 801,968	15. Abraham Almonte, Indians, 684,675

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
Catcher				
1. Buster Posey, Giants, 2,530,713	2. Wilson Contreras, Cubs, 1,216,513	3. Yadier Molina, Cardinals, 1,068,485	4. Yasmani Grandal, Dodgers, 749,923	5. Matt Wieters, Nationals, 680,644
First Basemen				
1. Ryan Zimmerman, Nationals, 1,728,607	2. Anthony Rizzo, Cubs, 1,601,245	3. Paul Goldschmidt, D-backs, 1,200,995	4. Freddie Freeman, Braves, 767,375	5. Joey Votto, Reds, 703,832
Second Basemen				
1. Daniel Murphy, Nationals, 3,057,360	2. Javier Baez, Cubs, 1,654,829	3. DJ LeMahieu, Rockies, 621,188	4. Brandon Phillips, Braves, 475,916	5. Logan Forsythe, Dodgers, 393,238
Third Basemen				
1. Kris Bryant, Cubs, 1,978,692	2. Nolan Arenado, Rockies, 1,920,610	3. Justin Turner, Nationals, 1,075,524	4. Anthony Rendon, Nationals, 779,468	5. Jake Lamb, D-backs, 726,560
Shortstop				
1. Zack Cozart, Reds, 1,915,806	2. Corey Seager, Dodgers, 1,657,732	3. Addison Russell, Cubs, 1,204,204	4. Trea Turner, Nationals, 804,703	5. Chris O’Leary, D-backs, 676,666
Outfield				
1. Bryce Harper, Nationals, 3,617,444	2. Charlie Blackmon, Rockies, 3,115,730	3. Marcell Ozuna, Marlins, 1,270,464	4. Jason Heyward, Cubs, 1,241,194	5. Ben Zobrist, Cubs, 1,122,946
6. Giancarlo Stanton, Marlins, 1,069,313	7. Matt Kemp, Braves, 1,058,050	8. Kyle Schwarber, Cubs, 949,780	9. Yoenis Cespedes, Mets, 785,178	10. Adam Duval, Reds, 664,379
11. Dexter Fowler, Cardinals, 631,395	12. Yasiel Puig, Dodgers, 626,565	13. Jay Bruce, Mets, 561,984	14. Jayson Werth, Nationals, 540,609	15. Carlos Gonzalez, Rockies, 518,241

TUESDAY'S GAMES				
Washington 10, Seattle 70	Los Angeles 87, Connecticut 79			
WEDNESDAY'S GAMES				
Indiana at Chicago, 9:30 a.m.				

NCAA				
College World Series				
AT TD Ameritrade Park Omaha	Omaha, Neb.			
LSU 6, Oregon State 1, LSU advances	Florida 3, TCU 0, Florida advances			
Friday's Games				
Orlando City at Real Salt Lake, 6:30 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
Monday: Florida 4, LSU 3	Tuesday: Florida 6, LSU 1, Florida wins championship			

WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	9	6	643	—
New York	7	5	583	1
Connecticut	6	7	462	2½
Atlanta	5	6	455	2½
Indiana	6	7	462	2½
Chicago	3	10	231	5
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	11	1	917	—
Los Angeles	10	3	769	1½
Phoenix	7	5	583	4
Dallas	8	5	500	5

MLS						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pts	GF GA		
Toronto FC	10	2	5	35	30	15
NYC FC	10	3	4	34	31	17
NYC FC	9	5	3	30	31	20
Orlando City	7	6	5	26	20	26
Columbus	8	9	1	25	30	25
Atl. United FC	7	7	3	24	33	25
New York	7	8	2	23	17	23
New England	5	7	5	20	27	25
Philadelphia	5	7	4	19	21	20
Montreal	4	5	6	18	24	26
D.C. United	5	9	3	18	12	25
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pts	GF GA		
Sporting K.C.	8	4	6	30	22	12
FC Dallas						