

Wolcott squeaks out Seattle victory

■ **AL PLAYOFFS:** The Mariners' pitcher gets out of several jams and pulls out a 3-2 victory.

SEATTLE (AP) — All the Seattle Mariners asked Bob Wolcott to give them was a few good innings. Instead, the 22-year-old rookie gave them a game to remember forever.

Wolcott, pitching because the Mariners had no one else, pulled one of baseball's greatest escapes, wriggling free from a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the first inning and beating the Cleveland Indians 3-2 Tuesday night in their AL playoff opener.

Showing poise that belied his baby face, Wolcott — added to the postseason roster Monday and making only his eighth major-league appearance — spent the whole evening putting himself in trouble and then getting out.

Meanwhile, Luis Sojo's tiebreaking double off Dennis Martinez in the seventh inning whipped the Kingdome crowd of 57,065 further into a frenzy, and stopped the Indians' march through the postseason.

Cleveland, coming off a three-game sweep of Boston in the opening round, will try to get even in the best-of-7 series Wednesday night when Orel Hershiser starts Game 2 against Tim Lincecum.

At the outset, it looked like the Indians might run away with this game. Wolcott, who began the season at Double-A Port City, walked the bases loaded by throwing balls on 12 of his first

13 pitches to Kenny Lofton, Omar Vizquel and Carlos Baerga.

By then, the weary bullpen, which the Mariners hoped Wolcott would give a break, was already warming up. Wolcott probably was too busy to notice — facing the team that led the majors in batting, scoring and home runs, he was about to see the heart of the order.

Somehow, Wolcott found a way.

First, he struck out Albert Belle, getting the slugger who hit 50 home runs to swing through a high, 2-2 fastball.

Next up was Eddie Murray, a career .413 hitter with the bases loaded. Murray, like Belle, swung and the first pitch and he fouled out.

With the crowd sensing it was seeing something special, Wolcott ended the inning, thanks to a diving stop by second baseman Joey Cora on Jim Thome's hard grounder up the middle.

Wolcott paused for a moment to watch the completion of the play, then ran off the mound as the Mariners rushed out of the dugout to greet him. First to meet him was Randy Johnson, who patted the rookie on the chest as other teammates gathered around.

Johnson, the ace, could not pitch because he started Friday and relieved Sunday in the decisive Game 5 against New York. Belcher and Chris Bosio also worked during the weekend and were not available to start, so it was up to Wolcott, who went 3-2 in his first big league season and had not worked since Sept. 17.

Wolcott stranded two more runners in the second and got Paul Sorrento to ground into a bases-loaded double play to end the third. In all, the Indians left 10 runners on base in Wolcott's career-high seven innings. Lofton did the most damage, going 3-for-3 with two walks, and Belle later homered.

After that, the bullpen did its job after being worn out by the Yankees. Jeff Nelson and Norm Charlton preserved the win for Wolcott, with Charlton going 1 1-3 innings for a save.

With the score 2-2 in the seventh, Jay Buhner doubled and Mike Blowers reached on a throwing error by Thome at third. Sojo's double finished off Martinez.

Belle had tied it at 2 in the Cleveland seventh with a monstrous home run, 441 feet to dead center with one out. That quieted the fans for a moment, though Wolcott quickly won them back by striking out Eddie Murray.

Belle's second homer of the postseason came right after the Mariners missed a scoring chance in the sixth when AL batting champion Edgar Martinez groundled into an inning-ending double with runners at the corners.

Blowers, who batted just .167 in the first round and stranded bunches of runners against New York, quickly atoned by hitting a two-run homer in his first at-bat of the second round. He put the Mariners ahead 2-0 in the second when he connected after a two-out walk to Buhner.

X-country: Brothers find support in one another

■ **Continued from Page 11**

Matt and Micah both illustrated that beyond the support they give each other and the support they receive from Dellinger, the whole team is there to support one another.

"I feel like there is a high school atmosphere; we're all out here because we love to run," Matt said. "We don't wake up and say, 'Oh no, there's a race today,' we say 'all right, we get to race today.'"

"A lot of times it helps to work with each other in a race," Micah said. "To run by a teammate and to push each other."

Matt summed up his and Micah's team philosophy: "It's harder to break a 'we' than it is to break an 'I,'" Matt said. "We have the 'we', and we have Dellinger up above us guiding us."

Matt also expressed his appreciation of Eugene and the people who in turn appreciate him and the cross country program.

"Eugene is a really special place if you're a runner," Matt said. "You can actually practice without people looking at you like 'what are those guys doing?' People know what you mean when you say Hayward Field."

Both brothers expressed

appreciation of fans and the people who support the program, but said they run because they love to run, no matter who's watching.

"If no one showed up, we would still run because we're doing something we love," Matt said.

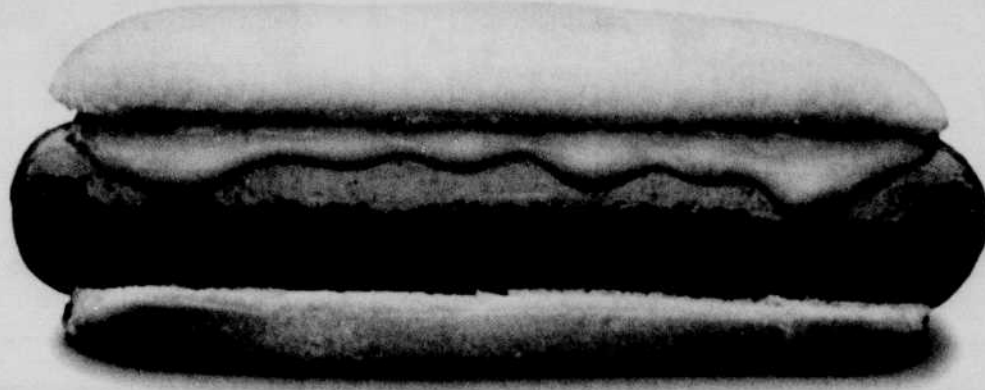
As a freshman last year, Matt's seventh-place finish in the district qualifier made him the only Oregon runner to qualify for the NCAA Championships. Matt finished 31st at the NCAA race and was the fifth-place runner at the conference meet. He continued his success during the track season as he placed second to teammate Karl Keska in the 10,000 at the Pacific-10 outdoor meet.

Micah is looking to follow in his brother's footsteps as a freshman this year. He is considered by coach Dellinger to be one of the top seven runners.

"I look at him and he has a lot to offer (to the team), Matt said. "And I know that I can lean on him if I need to and he can always lean on me if he needs to."

Through their commitment to each other, their coach and their team, Matt and Micah Davis are making big strides in the world of cross country.

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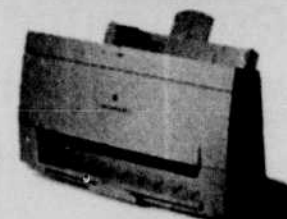
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