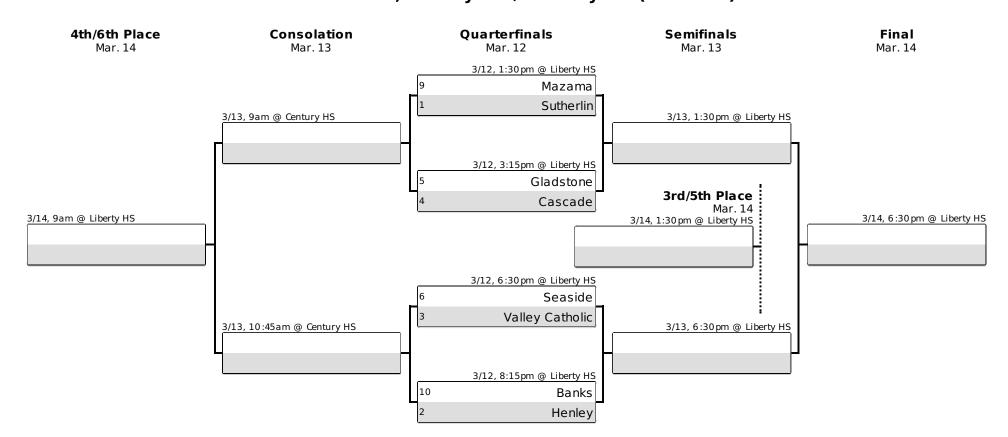
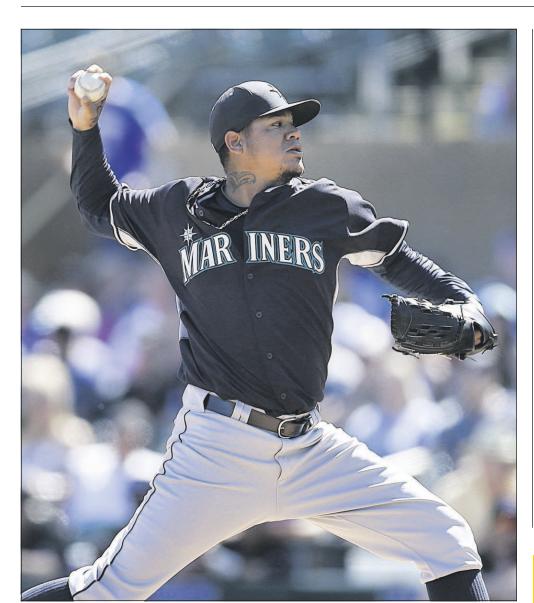
2015 OSAA / U.S. Bank / Les Schwab Tires 4A Girls Basketball State Championship March 12-14, Liberty HS / Century HS (Hillsboro)





AP Photo/Ben Margot

Seattle Mariners Felix Hernandez works against the Colorado Rockies in the first inning of a spring training exhibition baseball game Tuesday in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Hernandez pitches two hitless frames in debut

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Felix Hernandez's first spring start began with a 400-foot flyout and a walk before the Seattle ace settled down to throw two hitless innings Tuesday in the Mariners' 9-3 loss to a Colorado Rockies split squad.

Back after posting an AL-best 2.14 ERA last season, the right-hander's first pitch was hit by Corey Dickerson to the wall in center. After a walk, Carlos Gonzalez grounded into a double play.

"The first pitch was up a little bit. It didn't sink," Hernandez said. "The walk, I was just trying to throw too hard, probably."

Hernandez pitched a perfect second. Half of the five-time All-Star's 18 pitches were strikes.

"For the first time, It feels pretty good," he said.

Wilin Rosario hit two homers and drove in five runs for Colorado. He hit a two-run shot off Mariners rotation candidate Roenis Elias.

Gonzalez added a bloop

single off Elias for his first hit in his second game back from knee surgery.

Offseason acquisition Kyle Kendrick struck out three in two scoreless innings for Colorado.

With Mariners star Robinson Cano away from the team after the death of his grandfather, shortstop Brad Miller started at second and went 2-for-3. He homered twice a day earlier.

Starting time

Mariners: Seattle pitchers allowed 11 hits, with Dominic Leone (seven runs, five hits) the hardest hit.

"The whole game was tough," manager Lloyd Mc-Clendon said.

Rockies: Kendrick, who spent the past eight seasons in Philadelphia, allowed two hits while working on his cutters and changeups as he pitched on three days' rest. Kendrick struggled in his first start, giving up three hits and a run in two innings

"The first start I felt like

I'd never pitched in my life before," Kendrick said. "My body was all over the place. Today I felt more connected in my delivery. Everything was more fluid."

Trainer's room

Mariners: Reliever Tom Wilhelmsen (back) is scheduled to throw one inning Wednesday.

Rockies: No. 1 starter Jorge De La Rosa's spring debut was pushed back a second time due to groin tightness. De La Rosa had been scheduled for last Saturday. Then it was Thursday. The new target date is next week. "We feel like we still have enough time to get him back on track," manager Walt Weiss said. ... SS Troy Tulowitzki gave up a thumbs-up when asked how he was feeling a day after his return from hip surgery. Weiss said he'll likely play Wednesday. ... Weiss said OF Charlie Blackmon (abdominal strain) will make his spring debut by the end of the week.

Astoria Ford raises funds for sports

Ford Motor Company and Dane Gouge's Astoria Ford want to help raise money in support of Astoria Youth Athletics with Ford's Drive One 4 UR Community program, starting at 9 a.m. Saturday at

Dane Gouge's Astoria Ford, 710 W. Marine Drive.

Ford Motor Company and Astoria Ford will donate \$20 to Astoria Youth Athletics for every person from a unique household who test drives a 2014 Ford vehicle. No purchase is necessary. The event

hopes to raise up to \$6,000.

Astoria Ford has helped raise nearly \$40,000 for local youth sports through the Ford Drive One program.

For online updates: www.dailyastorian.com

On to state for future Loggers

The Daily Astorian

The Knappa High School boys basketball team took their best shot in last week's Class 2A state tournament — now it's time for Knappa's seventh-grade boys basketball team to make a run at the Oregon Middle School State Basketball Championships, Saturday and Sunday in Bend, Redmond and Sisters.

The championship tournament, held on two separate weekends for boys and girls, offers fifth- through eighth-grade teams an opportunity to play schoolbased teams from around the state. The tournament is sold out, with 236 teams registered.

Knappa's team, sponsored by Teevin Bros. Land & Timber Co., is coached by Todd and Kara Takalo. Knappa qualified in January by placing second in the Clatskanie



Submitted photo

Knappa's seventh-grade boys basketball team, front row, from left, Mason Westerholm, Kayden Stuhr and Spencer Teague. Back row: Jaxson Goodman, Kanai Phillip, Joe Ramvick, Eli Takalo and Ryson Patterson.

Tiger Tournament.

The team had three second-place finishes and one first-place showing this season. In addition, they recently completed an undefeated middle school basketball season. The school team was coached by Bryan Lempea and Jeff Miller. Members of the Knappa team include Jaxson Goodman, Ryson Patterson, Kanai Phillip, Joe Ramvick, Kayden Stuhr, Eli Takalo, Spencer Teague and Mason Westerholm.

State tournament information can be found at http://bit.ly/1B4rMKo

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