

SPORTS

CONTACT US
 Gary Henley | Sports Reporter
 ghenley@dailyastorian.com

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Football games rescheduled for tonight

The Daily Astorian

The storms over the past few days caused all local high school football games to be rescheduled for tonight.

The games include Seaside's homecoming game against Tillamook; Portland Christian at Warrenton; Neah-Kah-Nie at Knappa and Ilwaco at Willapa Valley.

Game times are listed in Scoreboard.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Football — Tillamook at Seaside, 7 p.m.; Portland Christian at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Neah-Kah-Nie at Knappa, 7 p.m.; Ilwaco at Willapa Valley, 7 p.m.

Volleyball — Warrenton at Rainier, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

Volleyball — Astoria at Scappoose, 7 p.m.; Seaside at Banks, 7 p.m.; Knappa at Vernonia, 7 p.m.

Girls Soccer — Astoria at Tillamook, 7:30 p.m.; Seaside at Valley Catholic, 7 p.m.

Boys Soccer — Tillamook at Astoria, 7:30 p.m.; Valley Catholic at Seaside, 7 p.m.

Cross Country — Astoria at Valiant Invitational, TBA

WEDNESDAY

Football — Oregon Deaf School at Jewell, 7 p.m.

Cross Country — Seaside at Taft, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY

Girls Soccer — Banks at Astoria, 7:30 p.m.; Tillamook at Seaside, 7:30 p.m.

Boys Soccer — Seaside at Tillamook, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Football — Astoria at Scappoose, 7 p.m.; Banks at Seaside, 7 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie, 7 p.m.; Knappa at Vernonia, 7 p.m.; Ocosta at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

Kershaw, Dodgers blank Cubs

NLCS tied at 1-1

By JAY COHEN
 AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — So much for October closer. With his Dodgers desperate for a win, Clayton Kershaw delivered the best start of his checkered playoff career.

The ace left-hander pitched seven sparkling innings, Adrian Gonzalez homered and Los Angeles beat the Chicago Cubs 1-0 Sunday night to tie the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

Kershaw retired his first 14 batters and allowed just two hits in first outing since he pitched three times in the NL Division Series, including a two-out save in Game 5 on Thursday night in Washington. The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner struck out six and walked one while throwing just 84 pitches in a brisk outing that could help when he returns later in the NLCS.

"It was one of those games where one pitch could have been the deciding factor," Kershaw said. "So, really just kind of couldn't look up for a minute for air and just kind of kept going through it and fortunate to get through it tonight."

Kenley Jansen then struck out four in two perfect innings for his third save of the playoffs. The teams combined for just five hits for the lowest total in a playoff game since the Cardinals and Pirates had four in Game 4 of their 2013 NL Division Series.

"I think that you couldn't have scripted it any better," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "And it was just another fun ballgame."

Roberts almost went to Jansen with a runner on first and two out in the seventh, but Kershaw argued successfully to stay in the game. Javier Baez then hit a drive to the warning track in deep center, but Joc Pederson was there for the catch.

Baez's drive was one of a precious few hard-hit balls for the Cubs. Kershaw was that good.

Browns' Poyer suffers major injury

The Associated Press

The most frightening injury of the day happened in Tennessee. Cleveland defensive back Jordan Poyer went to the hospital with a lacerated kidney following a vicious blind-side hit in the second quarter of the Browns' 28-26 loss to the Titans.

The former Astoria High School player was hurt chasing down Titans returner Marc Mariani when Antonio Andrews hit him, knocking Poyer to the ground with 6:33 left in the second quarter. Andrews was flagged and penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct on the blindside hit.

The hit left Poyer bent over on the grass for a few minutes before he was able to walk to the Browns sideline. He was evaluated, then put on a cart that took him to the locker room before Poyer was transported to a local hospital. He was evaluated at the hospital for a concussion and an abdomen injury, revealing the damage to his kidney.

Asked about the hit, Browns coach Hue Jackson called it just football and doubted Andrews was doing anything more than just trying to block Poyer.

"Sometimes you aim at a spot and hit some other things," Jackson said.



AP Photo/Mark Zaleski

Cleveland safety Jordan Poyer walks off the field after being shaken up on a play against Tennessee in the first half Sunday in Nashville, Tenn.

Seattle's win over Atlanta impressive for both teams

By TIM BOOTH
 AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Matt Ryan dissected the best defense in the NFL for 15 memorable minutes. Richard Sherman unloaded on his teammates with an intense sideline tirade rarely seen in public. And Russell Wilson led another fourth-quarter comeback.

Eventful would be one way to describe Seattle's 26-24 win over Atlanta on Sunday.

But it was also validating. At this point of the season, the Falcons and Seahawks are clearly among the handful of contenders in the NFC.

Yes, both have flaws that were displayed at times in Seattle's win. Both also showed they have the ability to overcome them.

"I like where our team identity is now, so badly that I want the identity to happen right away," Atlanta coach Dan Quinn said. "It's growing stronger, that toughness, that resolve where we can attack in all three phases. That identity, I am pleased we are starting to become."

That sounds like something Seattle coach Pete Carroll might say. But the Seahawks' identity has been proven over time and was shown once again against the Falcons. Wilson led Seattle on a 70-yard touchdown drive midway through the fourth quarter to pull within 24-23. Then it was Richard Sherman and Earl Thomas teaming up to intercept a pass that slipped through Julio Jones' fingers and set up Steven Hauschka's 44-yard field goal that proved the game-winner.

The victory was Wilson's 20th fourth quarter or overtime comeback. Seattle's been down the path of being in close games in the fourth quarter against good teams and finding a way to pull out a win beginning in Wilson's rookie season. Sunday was the second time in five games this season Wilson led the Seahawks to a go-ahead score in the final 2 minutes.

That would seem to be the next step for the Falcons to learn.



AP Photo/Stephen Brashear

Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman (25) and Earl Thomas (29) break up a pass intended for Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones (obscured) in the second half Sunday. Seattle defeated Atlanta 26-24.

"We had a really nice first half. Then came back when we needed to in the fourth quarter to get the stops we needed to get it done, and we made the one kick we needed to make," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "Very difficult game. Dan's team is playing like crazy. They were hard to beat today."

Here's what else to know from Seattle's victory:

RIPPING RYAN: Ryan's third quarter was stunning. He was 13 of 17 for 220 yards and three TDs. Ryan found Jones for a 36-yard score on the first drive of the second half; found Mohamed Sanu on a 10-yard TD; and later connected with Levine Toilolo on a 46-yarder as the Falcons rallied from a 14-point halftime deficit to lead 24-17 going to the fourth quarter. "They started making catches,

started making deep throws and they made some good plays you have to give them that. That's a real good team over there," Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said.

HERE'S JIMMY (AGAIN): Jimmy Graham continues to show his importance to Seattle's offense.

Graham finished with six catches for 89 yards, his third straight game with six receptions. He nearly became the first player in team history to top 100 yards receiving in three straight games, but fell just short.

It's the first time Graham has caught five or more passes in three straight games since early in the 2014 season, when he was still in New Orleans. And he has discovered a rhythm with Wilson that hasn't required the throws to be forced.

"He just believes it. He puts that back foot in the ground and just lets it go," Graham said. "It's just going to get better and better for the whole offense, for all of us."

RUNNING NOWHERE: While Ryan had a big day throwing the ball, Atlanta's run game had no success.

Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman combined for 52 yards rushing and averaged just 2.9 yards per carry. Freeman had 40 yards on 12 carries, but that included an 18-yard run.

Perhaps more important, Seattle didn't allow the duo to be part of the passing game. Freeman had three catches for 10 yards and Coleman one reception for 7 yards. A week ago, Coleman had four catches for 132 yards and a touchdown against Denver.

NO FLAG: Atlanta probably has a right to be upset with the decision not to flag Sherman for pass interference on its final offensive play. Replays showed Sherman clearly pulling at Jones' arm on the deep throw before the ball arrived. The Falcons sideline screamed begging for a call, but no flag ever appeared.

Sherman did not believe he got away with one.

"No. I felt like we won the ballgame," he said.

Timbers playoff hopes still alive with win over Rapids

By ANNE M. PETERSON
 AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Beat the Whitecaps next Sunday in Vancouver, and the Portland Timbers are in the playoffs.

The Timbers set up the win-and-in scenario for the regular-season finale with a 1-0 victory Sunday over the Colorado Rapids. Fanendo Adi scored on a penalty kick in the 35th minute.

"The reality is, it comes down to one game for us now to extend our season," Timbers captain Jack Jewsbury said. "It's not the sixth game of the season on the road where it's hard to see the end line. It's do or die."

It was the fifth straight win at home for the defending MLS Cup champions and pulled them even in points with Sporting Kansas City for the sixth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. The Timbers were a point back of fifth-place Seattle.

Colorado (15-6-12) dropped to second in the conference standings behind Dallas while vying for the Supporters' Shield for the team with the best regular-season record.

The Timbers (12-13-8) have been winless on the road this season, which

has hurt their playoff chances. But the result Sunday keeps them in the playoff race heading into the final game of the regular season next Sunday against the Whitecaps in Vancouver.

"I don't think anybody's worried about the road, even though, maybe we should be," Timbers coach Caleb Porter said. "But I think in some ways the group still has a lot of confidence going on the road. It's more frustration, like, 'how did we not win on the road?' type of thing."

The Timbers have lost starters Liam Ridgwell and Diego Chara for the match against the Whitecaps because of yellow card accumulation.

Adi's penalty kick was the result of a foul in the box on Vytautas Andriuskevicius. Three minutes later, Andriuskevicius drew another penalty but Rapids goalkeeper Tim Howard stopped the shot and Adi missed a chance on the rebound.

Jewsbury, who is retiring following the season, was captain for his 156th game with the Timbers, tied for fourth on the team's career list. He was honored before his final home game, and the sellout crowd at Providence Park chanted "Captain Jack!"



Billy Gates/The Oregonian

Rapids' Jared Watts climbs over Timbers' Fanendo Adi for a ball during Portland's 1-0 win over Colorado in Portland on Sunday.