

SPORTS

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SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Boys Soccer — Class 4A State Play-off: Seaside at La Grande, 1 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Northwest All-League

Player of the Year: Charity Hall, Gaston

Coach of the Year: Melody McCaster, Gaston

First Team

Charity Hall, Jr., Gaston
 Taylor Bassel, Jr., Gaston
 Lexi Delgado, Jr., Delphian
 Sami Howard, Sr., Columbia C.
 Kaitlyn Landwehr, Sr., Knappa
 Jahzel Sanchez, So., Faith Bible
 Payton Wolf, Sr., Vernonia

Second Team

Julia Clark, Jr., Gaston
 Jennifer Cruz-Rodriguez, Jr., City Christian
 Joyce Everett, So., Vernonia
 Allegra Poetter, Jr., Faith Bible
 Lauren Siler, So., Nestucca
 Luella Taufer, Fr., Delphian
 Cat Veliz, Jr., Delphian
 Cassidy Whitton, Sr., Vernonia

Honorable Mention

Fernanda Careaga, Sr., Delphian
 Deillah Carter, Jr., Columbia C.
 Katie Clifford, Sr., Neah-Kah-Nie
 Morgan Haral, Jr., Vernonia
 Brooke Jordan, So., Gaston
 Olivia Leslie, Fr., Nestucca
 Jaden Miethe, Jr., Knappa
 Alisha Murphy, Sr., Knappa
 Kelsey Richardson, Fr., Gaston
 Paris Vanderburg, Jr., Knappa
 Jordan Walters, Fr., Vernonia
Sportsmanship: Neah-Kah-Nie

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Warriors 127, Trail Blazers 104

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Stephen Curry had just five points in the first half against the Portland Trail Blazers. He knew the second half was going to be different from his first shot.

“You see one go in and that’s all you really need confidence-wise,” he said. That first shot? It was a 3-pointer.

Curry finished with 28 points, 23 in the third quarter alone, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Trail Blazers 127-104 on Tuesday night to extend their early season winning streak to three games.

Ian Clark came off the bench with a career-high 22 points for the Warriors, who have rebounded after a season-opening loss to San Antonio. Kevin Durant added 20 points and Golden State rested its starters down the stretch after leading by as many as 35 points.

Damian Lillard had 31 points for the Blazers, who fell in five games to the Warriors in the Western Conference semifinals last season. Playing the first of a back-to-back, Portland coach Terry Stotts also went to his reserves with eight minutes left.

The Blazers beat the Warriors 137-105 in Portland last February, with Oakland native Lillard scoring a career-high 51 points against his hometown team. It was one of just nine losses for the Warriors. Lillard averaged 36.5 points against the Warriors last season.

Lillard scored with 0.3 seconds left to give the Blazers a 115-113 win at Denver on Saturday. He finished with 37 points.

UP NEXT

Trail Blazers: Open a three-game trip against the Suns on Wednesday night.

Nguyen wins \$8M at World Series of Poker

Associated Press

Former nail salon owner and failed professional baccarat player Qui Nguyen has won the World Series of Poker Main Event after the longest heads-up matchup in tournament history.

The 39-year-old in a raccoon baseball cap took the top prize of \$8,005,310 and the gold bracelet on Tuesday night in Las Vegas. He eliminated San Francisco poker pro Gordon Vayo on the 364th hand of the final table.

The native of Vietnam emerged from a field of 6,737 in the \$10,000 No-Limit Hold ‘Em Main Event, the final and most prestigious in a series of 69 World Series of Poker tournaments.

Vayo earned \$4,661,228.

Senior caps season with all-league award

The Daily Astorian

League champion Gaston had five players named all-league, and swept the Player and Coach of the Year awards in Northwest League volleyball.

The NWL’s all-league team was announced at the league’s tournament.

Knappa senior Kaitlyn Landwehr was a first-team selection, while Logger teammates Jaden Miethe, Alisha Murphy and Paris Vanderburg were named honorable mention.

Gaston junior Charity Hall was selected as the Player of the Year, and Gaston’s Melody McCaster was Coach of the Year for the league champion Greyhounds.



Knappa volleyball coach Jeff Kaul stands with his all-league players, from left to right: Jaden Miethe, Alisha Murphy, Kaitlyn Landwehr and Paris Vanderburg.

Submitted Photo

WORLD SERIES: GAME 7

‘This is what you want’



AP Photo/Matt Slocum

Chicago Cubs' Addison Russell celebrates after his grand slam against the Cleveland Indians during the third inning of Game 6 of the Major League Baseball World Series Tuesday in Cleveland.

But which team will reverse their curse?

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

CLEVELAND — Most fans around the country can sit back and savor Game 7. Not so easy for anyone who has spent a lifetime rooting for the Cubs or Indians.

All those years of hope and heartbreak collide Wednesday night when Chicago and Cleveland meet one last time this season to decide the World Series.

With the Cubs seeking their first championship since 1908 and the Indians trying to stop a drought that dates to 1948, the stakes could hardly be higher.

“No one says Game 3 or 5. This is what you want,” said shortstop Francisco Lindor, who leads the Indians with a .364 Series average.

Cleveland ace Corey Kluber pitches against Kyle Hendricks, the major league ERA leader. Kluber has a chance to become the first pitcher to win three World Series starts since Detroit’s Mickey Lolich in 1968.

“The game has changed,” the 76-year-old Lolich said Tuesday. “It’s a totally different game than what we played back in our days. It just doesn’t happen.”

Addison Russell hit a grand slam and tied a Series record with six RBIs in Chicago’s 9-3 win Tuesday night that forced this captivating matchup to the limit.

Chicago is trying to become the first club to overcome a 3-1 Series deficit since the 1985 Kansas City Royals and the first to do it by winning Games 6 and 7 on the road since the 1979 Pittsburgh Pirates.

Now it’s one night, winner take all. “It’s a kid’s dream,” Russell said.

Confidence

Even after losing two straight, the Indians remain confident.

Kluber is 4-1 with a 0.89 ERA in four postseason starts, starting with 16 consecutive scoreless innings against Boston in the Division Series and Toronto in the AL Championship Series.

“That’s our guy. That’s our stud,” Cleveland second baseman Jason Kipnis said.

A 30-year-old right-hander, Kluber started on three days’ rest for the first time in his big league career in Game 4 against the Blue Jays. He left after five innings with the Indians trailing 2-1 in a 5-1 defeat, then threw 88 pitches over six innings as Cleveland beat the Cubs 6-0 last Tuesday in the Series opener.

He came back on three days’ rest in Game 4, needing 81 pitches for six innings of one-run, five-hit ball in a 7-2 win that gave

WORLD SERIES: GAME 7

- Chicago Cubs at Cleveland
- Today, 5 p.m. TV: Fox
- Series tied 3-3

Cleveland a 3-1 lead.

“Obviously, he’s a special guy,” Hendricks said. “You can just see it, the way he takes to the mound. He’s always locked in.”

Nine pitchers have won three starts in a single Series, none since Lolich went 3-0 with a 1.67 ERA and 21 strikeouts while tossing three complete games against the St. Louis Cardinals.

“Good players, good pitchers, can do special things. He’s in that category,” Indians manager Terry Francona said. “It was kind of an easy decision after talking to him.”

Home-field advantage

The 2014 AL Cy Young Award winner, Kluber was 18-9 with a 3.14 ERA this season as Cleveland won the AL Central for the first time since 2007. His win in the All-Star Game at San Diego in July gave the American League home-field advantage in the Series.

“I never connected those dots at that point in time,” he said.

Already, he is the first pitcher to win Games 1 and 4 in the Series since Cincinnati’s Jose Rijo in 1990.

Pac-12 coaches: Let’s all get on same page schedule-wise

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**
AP Sports Writer

It’s that time of year — the final stretch — when the Pac-12’s nine-game conference schedule comes up.

Washington is undefeated, at No. 4 in the AP Top 25, and at No. 5 in the first College Football Playoff rankings. The Huskies appear to have a good shot at one of the four playoff spots — if all the pieces fall into place.

Last season, Stanford, with one loss on the road in the opener against Northwestern, looked like a possible contender for one of the four playoff spots, if only the Cardinal could finish strong. The Ducks proved to be spoilers, upsetting the Cardinal 38-36 at Stanford Stadium on Nov. 14.

That sparked discussion about the league’s nine-game schedule. In the Power Five conferences, the South-

eastern Conference and the Atlantic Coast Conference play eight-game slates. The Big Ten went to nine games this season.

The nine-game schedule has been criticized because it’s obviously more difficult, and there’s less likelihood that a team will finish undefeated — which therefore lowers the odds of getting coveted playoff berths. That challenges a conference where some key matchups are played late, impacting visibility.

On the other side, there are those who say the tougher schedule, paired with a conference championship, creates better teams.

“We discuss it every couple of years, it comes up,” Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said this weekend. “I think with the new college football playoff we were thinking, ‘Is this the best model? Is there a different model?’ But I think we all believe

strength of schedule will be rewarded by the selection committee if there are teams with similar records.”

That said, Scott said he’d like to see the other conferences rise to the nine-game level.

Across the league, coaches said they’d just like it to be equal — at either eight or nine games — across all conferences.

“If I just give you my own opinion of it, it’s pretty simple for me: All Power 5 teams should do the exact same thing. If they don’t, it’s not fair. That being said, they all don’t. Because it’s very, very difficult when you say you’re going to play nine games within your schedule and then you’re going to go beat each other up. But if everybody else is beating each other up, then I think it’s fine,” Oregon State coach Gary Andersen said.

Utah Coach Kyle Whittingham agreed: “I don’t lobby for it, but in

my opinion all the Power 5 conferences should play the same amount of conference games and make it a level playing field and some standardization there. Because when you play a ninth game that gives everyone in the conference a chance to get another loss.”

Whittingham took it a step further, saying that he’d like to see the playoffs expanded so that all the conference champions get in.

“To me it doesn’t make any sense to not have a level playing field and then not have every champion get in. It doesn’t make sense to me at all,” he said.

“If we’re all feeding into a playoff system let’s just play by the same rules,” said Stanford coach David Shaw, who also suggested cross-the-board consistency in non-conference scheduling against lower-tier teams.