

# SPORTS

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## Nationals explode in 10-1 win over Mariners

By IAN QUILLEN  
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Joe Ross was at his best on Tuesday night, when even his worst might have done the job for the Washington Nationals.

Ross (2-0) allowed one run over a career high-tying eight innings in his return from the minors, Anthony Rendon homered twice and drove in five runs, and the Nationals completed a 10-1 rout over the Seattle Mariners.

“There’s really nothing more that you can ask for as a starter,” said Ross, who struggled in three April starts before being optioned to Triple-A Syracuse on May 2. “It kind of just takes a good amount of pressure off my shoulders.”

Bryce Harper added his 14th homer and Jayson Werth hit his seventh off Chris Bergman (1-2), who allowed all

### UP NEXT: MARINERS

• Seattle Mariners (20-26)  
 at Washington Nationals (27-17)  
 • Today, 4:05 p.m. TV: MASN, RTNW

of the Nationals’ runs and 14 of their 15 hits.

He was chased following an eight-run fourth, in which Rendon doubled before hitting his second homer of the game and seventh of the season.

“I don’t know,” Rendon said, trying to explain the Nationals’ nine-hit, 11-batter inning. “I guess we were swinging at good pitches.”

Ryan Zimmerman also had three hits.

Ross was demoted following his last two starts in April, in which he allowed five earned runs in each while failing to complete five innings.

This time, he looked more of the 2015-16 vintage that had pitched to sub-4 ERAs in each season. He yielded five hits and a walk while striking out six, and retired 12 straight batters after a leadoff hit.

Ross finished by striking out the side in the eighth, catching long reliever Emilio Pagan looking on his 102nd pitch.

“That’s the guy I’ve been reading about in Triple-A,” Nationals manager Dusty Baker said. “His velocity stayed up most of the game. His arm slot is what he worked on. He gave us just what we needed.”

Mike Zunino homered in sixth in his return from his own minor league stint.

Robinson Cano went 0 for 3 in his first game back from the disabled list following a thigh injury as Seattle dropped its fourth straight.



AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta  
 Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Christian Bergman (56) throws a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals in Washington on Tuesday.

## SCOREBOARD

### PREP SCHEDULE

#### TODAY

Baseball — 4A State Playoff: Astoria at Estacada, 5 p.m.; 2A/1A State Playoff: Lost River at Knappa, 4 p.m.

## NFL cuts OT to 10 minutes

League also opens up flair in end zones

By JIM LITKE  
 Associated Press

CHICAGO — NFL owners cut the overtime period from 15 minutes to 10 minutes during the regular season, but also gave players plenty of leeway to celebrate after a touchdown.

The two moves are expected to result in more tie games and much more elaborate end zone dance parties.

“I always planned all my celebrations,” said Denver’s Emmanuel Sanders, already known for his flamboyant TD celebrations, including one that drew a fine last season.

“Now I can go a little overboard without getting cussed out by the head coach.”

At their regularly scheduled spring meeting Tuesday, the owners also decided to shift the 2021 Super Bowl to Tampa from Los Angeles, where construction delays have pushed back the expected opening of the new home for the Rams and Chargers. Those teams will now host the league’s showcase event in 2022.

Also approved at the meeting was the Oakland Raiders lease for a stadium in Las Vegas, where the team is expected to play the 2020 season.

### In the zone

For all the maneuvering, end zone celebration talk generated the most buzz. After years of limiting how — and how much — players could celebrate following touchdowns, the league decided to loosen up its rules, allowing players to again use the football as a prop, celebrate as a group and roll around on the ground again if they choose.

Even Commissioner Roger Goodell said he was looking forward to seeing what players would do with their new-found freedom of expression.

Asked whether he celebrated the new guidelines approved at Tuesday’s spring meetings, Goodell just laughed.

“I did,” he said. “I can’t tell you how.”

### Shorter OT

The shorter overtime period will be used in the postseason and regular season. Playoff games will also use 10-minute time blocks in overtime, but won’t end in ties.

Coaches’ concerns that too many players were exhausted and risking injuries at the end of the extra period was the key factor in the decision.

## NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 4



AP Photo/Tony Dejak  
 Cleveland Cavaliers’ Kyrie Irving (2) goes up for a shot against Boston Celtics’ Al Horford (42), from Dominican Republic, during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals Tuesday in Cleveland.

## IRVING’S 42 CARRIES CAVS PAST CELTICS

By TOM WITHERS  
 Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Kyrie Irving gritted his teeth, tightened up his left sneaker and hopped to his feet.

The pain couldn’t stop him. The Celtics couldn’t either.

Irving took over in the second half and finished with 42 points despite playing on a tender ankle, LeBron James added 34 and the Cleveland Cavaliers moved within one win of an almost inevitable third date in the NBA Finals with Golden State by rallying to beat Boston 112-99 on Tuesday night in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals.

With James in foul trouble, Irving was forced to do more than ever and he delivered, scoring 19 in less than five minutes and 33 in a 19-minute stretch.

“The kid is special,” James said. “I was happy to sit back and watch him. He was born for these moments.”

The defending NBA champions, who shot 71 percent in the second half, opened a 3-1 lead in the series and can wrap up their third straight conference title — and a “three-match” against the Warriors — with a win in Game 5 on Thursday night in Boston.

But if Games 3 and 4 are any indication, it won’t be easy.

Fighting to keep their season alive, the Celtics aren’t giving an inch despite playing without All-Star guard Isaiah Thomas, who may need surgery on a

### UP NEXT: GAME 5 OF NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

• Boston Celtics (53-29)  
 at Cleveland Cavaliers (51-31)  
 • Thursday, 5:30 p.m. TV: TNT

hip injury.

The Cavs, meanwhile, wouldn’t be on the cusp of the Finals without Irving.

With Cleveland in jeopardy of dropping its second game in a row after James followed an 11-point Game 3 debacle by picking up four first-half fouls, Irving put on a breathtaking one-man show.

Freezing Boston defenders with his dribble and driving to the basket whenever he wanted, Irving made six layups, two 3-pointers and a free throw in a dizzying span of 4:48. He capped his blistering 19-point outburst with a 3 in the final second of the quarter and celebrated at mid-court by pretending to put two pistols back in his holster.

“He saw Bron went out and he wanted to put the team on his shoulders,” Cavs coach Tyrone Lue said. “He did that.”

Irving said he was driven by the thought of the Cavs seeing their series lead vanish.

“In the back of my mind, I thought, ‘They can’t tie up the series,’” he said. “We can’t go back to Boston tied 2-2. We needed everything tonight.”

## Seahawks’ Kennedy found dead at 48

By TIM BOOTH  
 Associated Press

Cortez Kennedy was a hulking force at defensive tackle, the cornerstone of a franchise that had little to cheer about for most of his playing career.

And yet what Kennedy accomplished as a player with the Seattle Seahawks — which was good enough for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame — was secondary to the affable personality that made him a revered figure long after his career ended.

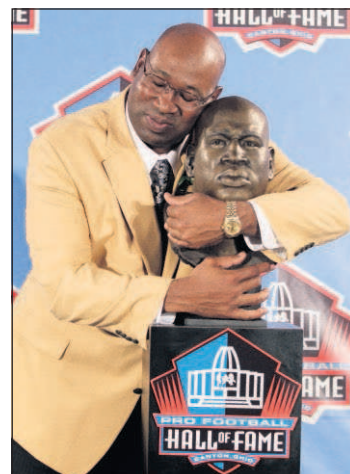
Police in Orlando, Florida, said the 48-year-old Kennedy was found dead Tuesday morning. Orlando Police Department public information officer Wanda Miglio said the circumstances surrounding his death are still unknown but that there is nothing suspicious about it. An investigation is being conducted.

“The full story lies in his loving, fun, positive and giving heart,” said New Orleans Saints general manager Mickey Loomis, who worked for the Seahawks during Kennedy’s playing career. “In my many years working in the NFL, no one better exemplified what it meant to be a great player on the field, and yet that paled in comparison to what Cortez meant to the people who knew him off the field.”

### Relative obscurity

A star who spent his entire 11-year NFL career in relative obscurity playing in Seattle, Kennedy became the second Seahawks player inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012. He was an unmovable wall as a dominant defensive tackle, and a quiet, gentle soul away from the field never interested in finding himself in the spotlight.

“Cortez Kennedy has been a pillar of the Seahawks franchise since joining the team as a rookie in 1990,” the Seahawks said in a statement. “Tez was the heart and soul of the Seahawks through the 1990s and endeared himself to 12s all across the Pacific Northwest as a player who played with a selfless and relentless approach to the game. ... We are proud to have been represented by such a special person.”



AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar  
 Former NFL player Cortez Kennedy poses with a bust of himself during the induction ceremony at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, in Canton, Ohio, in 2012.