

SPORTS

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Athletes of the Week

(FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 29-JUNE 3)



LANDREE MIETHE
 Warrenton

The Warriors' senior closed out her prep career at a 3A all-star series in Corvallis last weekend. Miethe was a combined 5-for-8 at the plate in the two games. In a 12-11 victory in Game 1, she was 2-for-4 with two runs scored. Trailing by two in the last inning, Miethe had a double to bring in the eventual winning run, then scored from second in the next at-bat. She was 3-for-4 in Game 2. Despite a 6-4 loss, Miethe had an inside-the-park home run in her final at-bat. She will play softball next year at Lower Columbia College.



JASON MILLER
 Knappa

The Knappa infielder had plenty of "Senior Moments" in his final week with the Loggers. In a 5-3 semifinal win over Regis May 30, Miller led off the bottom of the first inning with his first career home run. He went hitless in the 2A/1A state championship game three days later, but drove in a run on a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the seventh, and scored the winning run on a single by teammate Reuben Cruz, as Knappa rallied from a 9-3 deficit with seven runs in its final at-bat. The 10-9 win over Reedsport was Miller's second state title with the Loggers in his four years.

Shortstop Segura gets \$70M deal from Mariners

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Jean Segura and the Mariners agreed Wednesday to a \$70 million, five-year contract covering 2018-22, a deal that brings stability to a shortstop position in flux for more than a decade in Seattle.

Segura is making \$6.2 million this year and would have been eligible for free agency following the 2018 season. The contract calls for a \$3 million signing bonus, a \$9 million salary next season and \$14.25 million in each of the following four years. Seattle has a \$17 million option for 2023 with a \$1 million buyout. Segura gets a full-no trade provision.

Traded three times in five years, Segura said the long-term stability was important — bolstered by the no-trade clause.

"As a player, you choose where you feel comfortable, where you feel like it's home for you," he said. "It doesn't matter how much money you're going to take, it's all about how you're going to feel."

General manager Jerry Dipoto, who traded Segura from the Angels to Milwaukee in a 2012 deal for pitcher Zack Greinke, said he understood the importance of the no-trade request.

"I feel like in this case, because of the amount of times that Jean has moved, I didn't think it was an unreasonable ask because of how many times he's been asked to move," Dipoto said.

"And, the fact that he wants to be here and he wants to play for the Mariners, we're buying a six-year stretch of Jean's career that will span, including this year, his age 27 through potentially his age 33 season. It's a good buy for the Mariners," he added.

Segura was the centerpiece of one of Seattle's biggest off-season moves when he was acquired from Arizona as part of a five-player trade. After leading the National League in hits last season, Segura has not disappointed in his move to the American League.



Ronald Martinez/Pool Photo

Golden State Warriors forward Andre Iguodala (9) dunks on Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love (0) during the second half of Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland on Wednesday.

Warriors set to make their claim as NBA's best ever

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
 Associated Press

CLEVELAND — One victory left for the Golden State Warriors to claim another title.

Not the one as NBA champions. The one as the best team ever.

Kevin Durant, Stephen Curry and the rest of the Warriors will be able to make that boast if they win Friday to complete the most impressive postseason run in major sports history.

They moved to the brink of that with a 118-113 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday in Game 3 of the NBA Finals. The Warriors are 15-0 and can finish off the NBA's first perfect postseason with a victory here in Game 4.

Combine that with last year's 73-win season, and a second title in three years — which could have easily been three consecutive championships — and foundation of the case has been made.

The Cavaliers are no match for these Warriors, not even with arguably the best player on the planet in LeBron James. Golden State's only competition is with Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and the Bulls, and other great teams from the past.

None won as dominantly as this team, which has four versatile All-Stars — including two former league MVPs — in their prime. These aptly named Warriors spent the last two months building big leads, then Wednesday wiped out a late deficit. Some people may argue their great-



AP Photo/Tony Dejak

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, left, and Kevin Durant talk in the final moments against the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland on Wednesday.

UP NEXT: GAME 4

• Golden State Warriors (3-0) at Cleveland Cavaliers (0-3)
 • Friday, 6 p.m. TV: ABC

ness, but James won't.

"It's probably the most, most firepower I've played in my career," James said. "I played against some great teams, but I don't think no team has had this type of firepower. So even when you're playing well, you got to play like A-plus plus, because they're going to make runs and they're going to make shots and they got guys that's going to make plays."

The NBA's best postseason run is the 15-1 mark of the 2001 Lakers, while the 1983 Philadelphia 76ers went 12-1. Jordan's first title team in 1991 is one of three squads that went 15-2.

The Warriors thought they were carving out their place in history when they set a record with 73 wins last season. But history turned to infamy when they blew a 3-1 lead to the Cavaliers, the biggest collapse in NBA Finals history.

They spoke openly of their desire to beat Jordan's 72-win team in 1996, but this time have downplayed the importance of 16-0.

"We obviously know how hard it is to win a championship, what all goes into it and how important each game is. And now that you can look ahead to Friday, all our focus is on that," Curry said. "And just we obviously — we want 16 wins; it doesn't matter how we get there. But now that we're in this situation, why not take care of business and finish the job?"

They were winning by 16.9 points per game through the previous 14, which would easily be another NBA record. And when they finally got a close one, they showed why their roster is the envy of just about every other team, with the long-range shooting of Durant, Curry and Klay Thompson, and the defensive wizardry of Draymond Green and 2015 NBA Finals MVP Andre Iguodala.

That roster would give these Warriors a chance against any great team from the past — and gives most of their opponents no chance against them.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Zunino hits 2nd HR in 9th to rally Mariners past Twins, 6-5

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Mike Zunino's retooled swing following a demotion to the minors paid its biggest dividend yet for the surging Seattle Mariners.

Zunino hit his second homer of the game with two outs in the ninth inning, a two-run shot that gave the Mariners a 6-5 comeback victory over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday night.

Kyle Seager and Carlos Ruiz also homered for the Mariners, who overcame a three-run deficit and won for the ninth time in 10 games.

"Really excited for Mike Zunino. Everybody knows the ability he has, but to try to see him get the performance," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "He's worked his tail off. He's bought into kind of the new swing mechanics and he should, because he's getting great results right now."

Chef Flay buys interest in second Belmont horse

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Celebrity chef Bobby Flay hopes he's cooked up another winner in the Belmont Stakes.

Flay purchased 25 percent interest in J Boys Echo on Wednesday before the draw that assigned post positions for Saturday's \$1.5 million race. The other 75 percent belongs to Albaugh Family Stable.

Last year, Flay bought an interest in Creator just before the colt won the Belmont by a nose.

J Boys Echo finished 15th in the Kentucky Derby under jockey Luis Saez. The chestnut colt found trouble leaving the starting gate and got bounced around in the pack of 20 horses. He skipped the Preakness.

He has two wins in seven career starts and earnings of \$349,600. He was purchased for \$485,000.

J Boys Echo is trained by Dale Romans and will be ridden by Robby Albarado, who couldn't ride in the Derby because of injury.

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Junior State Baseball — Warrenton at Neah-Kah-Nie, 5:30 p.m.