

SPORTS

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Perez homers in 10th to give Royals 9-6 win over Ms



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson
 Kansas City Royals' Salvador Perez hits a two-run home run against the Seattle Mariners in the 10th inning of a baseball game Wednesday in Seattle.

By **TIM BOOTH**
 Associated Press

SEATTLE — Less than two months after sitting 10 games below .500, the Kansas City Royals are rolling into the All-Star break and on the cusp of the lead in the AL Central.

Salvador Perez hit a two-run homer in the 10th, Alex Gordon added a two-out RBI single later in the inning and the Royals completed a three-game sweep with a 9-6 win over the Seattle Mariners on Wednesday night.

Perez drove the second pitch from reliever James Pazos (2-2) out to right field for his 17th homer of the season, an inning that started with an error by Seattle's Robinson Cano. It was the third home run of the game for Kansas City, adding to earlier

UP NEXT: MARINERS

• Oakland Athletics (37-48)
 at Seattle Mariners (41-45)
 • Tonight, 7:10 p.m. TV: RTNW

two-run shots by Mike Moustakas and Lorenzo Cain.

Kansas City won for the sixth time in seven games and handed Seattle its seventh straight loss at home. The Royals are a half-game behind Cleveland for the lead in the AL Central.

"I didn't really think about. I just knew we would find a way to do it, get back into it," Kansas City manager Ned Yost said.

Perez said he was looking for a pitch on the outside half of the plate after striking out in both the sixth and eighth innings on pitches away.

"I was looking for something out over the plate. He threw me that pitch and I didn't miss," Perez said.

Mike Minor (5-1) pitched the ninth to get the victory and Kelvin Herrera threw the 10th for his 19th save to cap a stellar performance from the Kansas City bullpen. The Royals' relievers allowed one hit and struck out four in five scoreless innings of relief.

"We felt good, the bullpen just holding the fort until we could score," Yost said.

Minor had a scare when Mike Zunino led off the ninth with a flyball to deep left field that Gordon caught one step in front of the wall. Zunino's near-miss encapsulated Seattle's night, rallying from an early 4-0 deficit only to be held scoreless for the final seven innings.

Fire run unbeaten streak to 11 with draw in Portland

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**
 Associated Press

PORTLAND — After a draw against the Timbers, the music was playing loud in the Chicago Fire's locker room and the players were in a festive mood.

The surging Fire are undefeated in the last 11 games. The 2-2 tie in Portland on Wednesday night was the latest in a string of matches without a loss that started May 6.

"If you're happy outside the field, you're happy on the field, and I think that's the case right now," said Chicago's Arturo Alvarez, who had a first-half goal. "We just have to continue. It's a long season, I'm sure we're going to hit some ups and downs, but at the end of the day we just have to make sure we stick together with a positive mindset and win as many games as we can."

The Fire (11-3-4) have won nine games over the 11-game stretch. Last season, Chicago finished the season with just seven total victories and an MLS-worst 31 points.

Fanendo Adi opened the scoring for the Timbers (7-7-5) on a penalty kick in the 24th minute, and Alvarez tied it 10 minutes later.

Defender Brandon Vincent got his first goal of the season early in the second half to give the Fire the lead before Sebastian Blanco took a pass from Diego Valeri and slotted the tying goal past goalkeeper Matt Lampson in the 70th minute.

"In the end, unfortunately we dropped two points, but it was a tough game, fantastic opponent. These kinds of games are very helpful for our team to grow, especially when you get a point on the road," Fire coach Veljko Paunovic said. "Obviously we are not happy with just the point, but we are happy with the character and the way the team played today."

It was the third straight draw for the Timbers, who are winless in five straight games. But Portland has never lost to Chicago, with four wins and four draws since joining the league in 2011.



Sean Meagher/The Oregonian
 Portland Timbers' Dairon Asprilla (27) heads a ball next to Chicago Fire's Brandon Vincent during an MLS soccer match Wednesday in Portland.



Submitted Photo
 The Lower Columbia 11U All-Stars, one of two Lower Columbia teams which will play in the Columbia River Classic this weekend.

All-Star weekend for 11U's

The Daily Astorian

The Lower Columbia All-Stars will be the host team this weekend for the Columbia River Classic 11U baseball tournament.

Columbia Field and CMH Field will be the two sites for a full weekend of games, which begin at 9 a.m. Saturday and wrap up with a championship game Sunday afternoon.

Lower Columbia will have two teams in the tournament (Lower Columbia All-Stars and Lower Columbia Red), and the tournament will include teams from Longview and Kelso, Washington, West Linn and Gresham-Barlow.

Saturday's pool-play openers will feature the Lower Columbia All-Stars vs. the Longview All-Stars, 9 a.m. at Columbia Field;

and the Lower Columbia Red vs. the Kelso All-Stars, 9 a.m. at CMH Field.

Sunday's championship game is scheduled for 3:45 p.m. at Columbia Field.

Saturday's Schedule, Pool Play

(At Columbia Field)

9 am: LC All-Stars vs. Longview

11:15: LC All-Stars vs. West Linn

Green

1:30: Longview vs. West Linn Green

3:45: Longview vs. LC Red

6:00: Gresham vs. West Linn Green

(At CMH Field)

9 am: LC Red vs. Kelso

11:15: LC Red vs. West Linn Gold

1:30: Kelso vs. Gresham

3:45: Kelso vs. West Linn Gold

6:00: LC All-Stars vs. West Linn

Green

8:15: LC All-Stars vs. Gresham

Rosters

Lower Columbia 11U All-Stars

4 Teague Palmberg, Astoria

6 Dean Helvey, Naselle

7 Garrett Hillard, Astoria

9 Karson Hawkins, Astoria

10 Nick Rusinovich, Knappa

22 Jude Miller, Knappa

27 Merrick Benesch, Astoria

44 Jaxon Dietrichs, Knappa

45 Ethan Hopkins, Ilwaco

77 Cannon Johnson, Naselle

88 Parker Kilponen, Naselle

Coaches

Jamey Hillard

Jeff Hawkins

Bryce Kilponen

Lower Columbia 11U Red

1 Zander Bachman, Knappa

3 Jacob Rogers, Ilwaco

5 Aiden Giles, Astoria

7 Cody Nicholson, Knappa

8 Benton Moore, Astoria

12 Tyler Lindstrom, Knappa

13 Dylan Carlson, Astoria

17 Dylan Nyman, Astoria

22 Patrick Anderson, Astoria

34 Bryce Yeager, Astoria

40 Treven Moreland, Knappa

50 Kaemon Sawa, Ilwaco

Coaches

Ryan Anderson

Daryl Moore

Kenny Yeager

Olympic panel praises 'outstanding' LA, Paris hosting plans

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**
 Associated Press

GENEVA — Los Angeles and Paris have been praised by an International Olympic Committee panel for having "outstanding" plans to host the 2024 Summer Games.

Storytelling skills and cutting-edge technologies from LA, plus "stunning backdrops" in Paris where the modern Olympics was reborn, were anticipated eagerly by an IOC evaluation commission which assessed the bidders in a 180-page dossier and 15-minute video published Wednesday.

"Their candidatures have put the Olympic Movement in a win-win situation, with very little to separate the two projects," said Patrick Baumann, the panel chairman and an IOC member.

Both cities should get hosting rights for the 2024 or 2028 Olympics on Sept. 13, at the IOC's annual meeting being held in Lima, Peru. Paris is viewed as favorite for 2024.

The evaluation was prepared for IOC members who will meet bid leaders at a key campaign event on July 11-12 in Lausanne. Members are



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong
 A Los Angeles 2024 sign stands in front of Staples Center, in Los Angeles.

also now expected to ratify the proposal for a double hosting award, which the IOC executive board formally made last month.

In statements issued Wednesday, both cities' bid campaigns said they were delighted with the evaluation.

Challenges highlighted for the two cities include public transport and traffic management plans in Los Angeles, which groups most venues in four clusters: Downtown, Valley,

South Bay and Long Beach.

The panel noted that the IOC would want to review in advance new laws that are needed to guarantee tax and funding aspects of the Paris project. Many events would take place in the city center, and use the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and Louvre art gallery as a backdrop.

LA's privately-financed project scored better than Paris, which calls for hundreds of millions of dollars of

taxpayers' money, in the IOC's own polling of public support for hosting the Summer Games.

It is always unclear in Olympic bidding contests how much the technical analysis of candidates' plans affect the choice of more than 85 IOC members eligible to vote.

Still, Los Angeles and Paris have long been viewed as high-class, low-risk options. The IOC has seemed grateful to have them after years of spiraling spending and cost overruns by host cities, and public opposition that ended other bids.

IOC President Thomas Bach has pushed for a double award since December, aiming to seize the chance of stability for the next decade.

Seeking to avoid construction costs and risks of creating white elephant venues, LA and Paris are praised for proposing to use existing and temporary arenas for 97 and 93 percent, respectively, of their Summer Games' needs.

The only permanent venue yet to be built in Los Angeles is the \$2.6 billion stadium in Inglewood to be shared by the NFL's Rams and Chargers. It would host the opening ceremony on July 19, 2024.