

SPORTS

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SPORTS
IN BRIEF4-time Iditarod
winner denies
doping his dogs

ANCHORAGE — Four-time Iditarod champion Dallas Seavey denies that he administered banned drugs to his dogs in this year's race and said he has withdrawn from the 2018 race in protest of the allegation.

"I have never given any banned substance to my dogs," Seavey said in a video posted to his Facebook page.

He didn't immediately return calls after the Iditarod Trail Committee identified him as the musher who had four dogs test positive for a banned opioid pain reliever after finishing the race last March in Nome.

Seavey said he fully expected the committee to ban him from the race for speaking out. There's a so-called gag rule preventing mushers from making statements critical of the race or sponsors.

"I have done absolutely nothing wrong," the 30-year-old Seavey said, adding he wouldn't be "thrown under the bus" by the race's governing board.

Sarachan to
coach US soccer
for exhibition at
Portugal

CHICAGO — Dave Sarachan, the top assistant to Bruce Arena, will be the interim coach for the United States when the Americans play an exhibition at European champion Portugal on Nov. 14.

Arena quit Oct. 13, three days after the Americans lost 2-1 at 99th-ranked Trinidad and Tobago and failed to qualify for next year's World Cup. The rest of Arena's staff will remain on for next month's game.

The U.S. doesn't have a competitive match until the 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup and is expected to overhaul its program during the more than five years it has to prepare for the 2022 World Cup.

Tiger Woods set to
enter plea bargain
for DUI arrest

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The diversion program for intoxicated drivers that Tiger Woods is expected to enter Friday is one of several across the country aimed at reducing the number of repeat offenders and backlogs of court cases.

The 41-year-old superstar golfer is scheduled to plead guilty at a court hearing to reckless driving, a less severe charge than driving under the influence, as part of a Palm Beach County, Florida, program that has graduated almost 2,500 first-time offenders since it began four years ago.

Deputy State Attorney Richard Clausi, who oversees the county's misdemeanor prosecutions, said that less than 1 percent of the program's participants have reoffended. He said the key has been getting offenders to take responsibility for their actions without requiring a trial and making sure they complete the program.

"It's still early, but we think it has been a success," he said.

— Associated Press

HOT WORLD SERIES ON DECK



AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast

Los Angeles Dodgers players celebrate beating the Chicago Cubs 11-1 to advance to the World Series.

Altuve, Astros vs Kershaw, Dodgers

By **BEN WALKER**
Associated Press

Big-time aces Clayton Kershaw and Justin Verlander. Playoff boppers Jose Altuve and Justin Turner.

A pair of 100-win teams for the first time in nearly a half-century. Hollywood Walk of Fame vs. Texans who wear the star. A little extra Magic, plus Nolan back in the fast lane.

This is one hot World Series — the Houston Astros, fresh off a Game 7 victory over the Yankees, taking on the Los Angeles Dodgers, well rested after a postseason romp.

Could be real steamy, too. It's supposed to be almost 100 degrees at Dodger Stadium for the opener tonight, maybe the hottest temperature ever at a World Series game.

At least the familiar October chill that makes players and fans shiver shouldn't be an issue outdoors in sun-baked California or under the retractable roof at Minute Maid Park.

Not that young stars Cody Bellinger and Carlos Correa would mind, nor would old pros Carlos Beltran and Chase Utley, nor top starters Dallas Keuchel and Yu Darvish.

Because a chance to win a ring doesn't come very often — these teams that have already played more than 700 games against each other over the years already know that.

WORLD SERIES: GAME 1

• Houston Astros (101-61)
 at Los Angeles Dodgers (104-58)
 • Today, 5:09 p.m. TV: FOX



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Houston Astros' Yuli Gurriel is congratulated by Jose Altuve after scoring against the New York Yankees.

The Astros have never won the crown. They're playing for a whole region, with the Houston Strong patches on their uniforms representing an area hit hard by Hurricane Harvey. The Dodgers haven't been in the World

Series since 1988, when Kirk Gibson's bat, Orel Hershiser's arm and Tommy Lasorda's moves outdid Oakland for the crown.

Now with Lakers great Magic Johnson as a part-owner, this LA team that led the majors with 104 wins is hoping to bring back the glory days that began in Brooklyn.

"I just want to win a World Series," Kershaw said after the Dodgers dethroned the Chicago Cubs in Game 5 of the NL Championship Series. "I know more than anybody how hard it is to get there. So, I'm definitely not taking this one for granted."

Said mercurial outfielder Yasiel Puig: "The trophy's coming soon."

The Astros, the major leagues' highest-scoring team this year, have never even won a World Series game. They only time they made it this far was 2005, when a club that included Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio, Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte got swept by the White Sox.

In fact, a World Series prize is the one piece of hardware missing from the trophy case from the Lone Star State. Texas teams have won the Super Bowl and championships in the NBA, NHL, college football and men's and women's basketball, but never in baseball.

Under the leadership of executive Nolan Ryan, the Texas Rangers came within one strike in 2011 before losing to St. Louis.

A CAPSULE LOOK AT THE WORLD SERIES

Associated Press

A look at the best-of-seven World Series between the Houston Astros and Los Angeles Dodgers:

SCHEDULE: (All times PDT, televised by FOX) Game 1, Tuesday, at Los Angeles, 5:09 p.m.; Game 2, Wednesday, at Los Angeles, 5:09 p.m.; Game 3, Friday, at Houston, 5:09 p.m.; Game 4, Saturday, at Houston, 5:09 p.m.; x-Game 5, Sunday, at Houston, 5:16 p.m.; x-Game 6, Tuesday, Oct. 31, at Los Angeles, 5:09 p.m.; x-Game 7, Wednesday, Nov. 1, at Los Angeles, 5:10 p.m.

x-if necessary.

SEASON SERIES: Teams didn't meet in 2017.

PROJECTED LINEUP (ASTROS): CF George Springer (.283, 34 HRs, 85 RBIs), 3B Alex Bregman (.284, 19, 71, 39 doubles), 2B Jose Altuve (.346, 24, 81, 39 doubles, 32 SBs; 204 hits to lead AL for 4th straight year, won 2nd consecutive batting title and 3rd overall), SS Carlos Correa (.315, 24, 84, 25 doubles), 1B Yuli Gurriel (.299, 18, 75, 43 doubles), C Brian McCann (.241, 18, 62), LF Marwin Gonzalez (.303, 23, 90, 34 doubles), RF Josh Reddick (.314, 13, 82, 34 doubles).

PROJECTED LINEUP (DODGERS): CF Chris Taylor (.288, 21, 72, 17 SBs), SS Corey Seager (.295, 22, 77), 3B Justin Turner (.322, 21, 71, 56

Ks, 59 BBs), 1B Cody Bellinger (.267, 39, 97), RF Yasiel Puig (.263, 28, 74, 15 SBs), 2B Logan Forsythe (.224, 6, 36) or Chase Utley (.236, 8, 34), C Austin Barnes (.289, 8, 38), LF Enrique Hernandez (.215, 11, 37).

PROJECTED ROTATION (ASTROS): LH Dallas Keuchel (14-5, 2.90 ERA), RH Justin Verlander (15-8, 3.36 for Detroit and Houston; 5-0, 1.06 in 5 starts with Astros), RH Charlie Morton (14-7, 3.62), RH Lance McCullers Jr. (7-4, 4.25).

PROJECTED ROTATION (DODGERS): LH Clayton Kershaw (18-4, 2.31, 202 Ks, 30 BBs, 23 HRs allowed in 27 starts, 175 IP), LH Rich Hill (12-8, 3.32, 166 Ks in 25 starts, 135 2/3 IP), RH Yu Darvish (10-12, 3.86, 209 Ks, 27 HRs allowed in 31 starts with Rangers and Dodgers), LH Alex Wood (16-3, 2.72 in 27 games, 25 starts).

RELIEVERS (ASTROS): RH Ken Giles (1-3, 2.30, 34/38 saves), RH Chris Devenski (8-5, 2.68), RH Joe Musgrove (7-8, 4.77), RH Will Harris (3-2, 2.98), LH Francisco Liriano (6-7, 5.66 with Blue Jays and Astros), RH Luke Gregerson (2-3, 4.57), RH Brad Peacock (13-2, 3.00).

RELIEVERS (DODGERS): RH Kenley Jansen (5-0, 1.32, 41/42 saves, tied for NL lead), RH Josh Fields (5-0, 2.84, 2 saves), LH Tony Cingrani (0-0, 4.22, 52 Ks, 12 BBs, 42 2/3 IP in 47 games with Reds and Dodgers; 2.79 in 22 games with Dodg-

ers), RH Brandon Morrow (6-0, 2.06, 2 saves), LH Tony Watson (7-4, 3.38, 10 saves in 71 games with Pirates and Dodgers; 2-1, 2.70 in 24 games with Dodgers), RH Pedro Baez (3-6, 2.95), RH Ross Stripling (3-5, 3.75, 2 saves), RH Kenta Maeda (13-6, 4.22, 1 save in 29 games, 25 starts), LH Luis Avilan (2-3, 2.93, 61 games).

MATCHUPS: The Astros and Dodgers have played over 700 times, more than any pair of teams to meet in the World Series. That's because Houston began as a National League expansion club in 1962 and didn't switch to the AL until 2013. The Dodgers hold a 388-323 edge — they've played so often, some fans say this feels more like an NL Championship Series than a World Series. ... In the most meaningful game between the sides, Houston earned its first playoff spot by beating the Dodgers 7-1 in a tiebreaker for the 1980 NL West title behind pitcher Joe Niekro. ... They last met in 2015, when Houston swept a three-game series at home. ... Verlander beat the Dodgers in late August with eight dominant innings for Detroit, shortly before being traded to Houston. ... Darvish is 5-5 lifetime vs. the Astros, including 1-1 this year before Texas sent him to the Dodgers. ... Reddick spent the final two months with the Dodgers last year after being traded from Oakland. ... Among the players who spent time with both clubs: Don Sutton, Jeff Kent and Jimmy Wynn, aka The Toy Cannon.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Girls Soccer — Scappoose at Astoria, 7:15 p.m.; Banks at Seaside, 6:30 p.m.

Boys Soccer — Astoria at Scappoose, 4:15 p.m.; Seaside at Banks, 4:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Volleyball — 1A State Playoffs: Jewell at Alsea, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY

Cross Country — Cowapa Championships, at Tillamook, TBA; District 1/3A/2A/1A Championships, 3:30 p.m.

Football — North Beach at Ilwaco, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Football — 4A Regional Play-in: Astoria at Estacada, 7 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton, 7 p.m.; Gaston at Knappa, 7 p.m.; Naselle at Sunnyside Christian, 5 p.m.

Seahawks defense back on top after 3-game win streak

By **TIM BOOTH**
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — It may not have looked that way earlier in the season, but the Seattle Seahawks are back to being an elite defense.

Seattle is tied for the league lead in scoring defense after Sunday's 24-7 romp over the New York Giants. The Seahawks are allowing just 15.7 points per game, tied with Jacksonville for the league lead. They've given up a combined 244 yards rushing in the past three games, including just 46 yards on

the ground in rolling past New York.

It's no surprise the Seahawks have won three straight because their defense is back playing at the level that has become their standard.

The Giants finished with just 177 total yards, the 18th time in Seattle coach Pete Carroll's tenure that the Seahawks have held an opponent under 200 total yards in a regular-season game. It was the 21st time they held an opponent under 50 yards on the ground. Carroll was extremely pleased with the play of second-year defensive tackle Jarran Reed and vet-

eran Sheldon Richardson against the Giants.

"They were really consistent, really disciplined from inside out. ... It takes great discipline to do that play after play after play. We've been doing this for years and this is how you play base defense and if you don't play with great discipline, which shows up in those couple of plays that get away from you once in a while, you can't play at this level and you can't play a base scheme like we do," Carroll said. "We don't do a lot of fancy stuff. We do stuff really well and we count on

our guys to execute the heck out of it."

The performance in New York capped a three-game turnaround for the Seahawks after an ugly performance in Tennessee where Seattle allowed 195 yards rushing and 33 points to the Titans. Seattle gave up touchdowns of 55 and 75 yards in the loss.

In the past three games, the Seahawks held Indianapolis to 237 total yards in a 46-18 rout, forced five turnovers in their 16-10 win over the Rams and capped the win streak with the performance against the Giants.