

SPORTS

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SPORTS
IN BRIEFWarriors
take 3-0 lead
in NBA Finals

CLEVELAND — Kevin Durant stood calmly near midcourt — and a very familiar spot — as teammates Stephen Curry and Draymond Green screamed at him in celebration.

Another momentous shot for Durant.

And soon, probably another NBA championship.

Durant scored a career playoff-high 43 points, draining a long 3-pointer in the final minute to cap his magnificent performance, and the Warriors beat LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers 110-102 in Game 3 of the NBA Finals on Wednesday night to move within a victory of a sweep, their second straight title and third championship in four years.

The Warriors are on dynasty's doorstep.

Afterward, the defending champs could be heard loudly celebrating inside their locker room, perhaps a warmup for a bigger party to come.



Corey Rich/Reel Rock/Novus Select
 Alex Honnold, top, and Tommy Caldwell climb The Nose of El Capitan.

Climbing stars cope with falls
on way to El Capitan record

By BRIAN MELLEY
 Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Two of the world's best rock climbers coped with frightening falls and the deaths of two fellow climbers on the same rock in a monthlong quest to shatter a mythical record in Yosemite National Park.

Tenacity paid off Wednesday as Alex Honnold and Tommy Caldwell reached the top of El Capitan, the most celebrated slab of granite on Earth, in less than two hours, breaking a barrier compared to the four-minute mile.

The blistering time of 1 hour, 58 minutes and seven seconds capped weeks of practice and a few stumbles on the so-called Nose route that runs up the middle of the 3,000-foot (915 meters) sheer monolith.

Honnold didn't think they were on a record pace until he glanced at his phone timer as he ran for the tree that marks the finish line, he told The

Associated Press by phone as he hiked down from the summit.

"Oh my god, we're doing it," he thought as he secured the rope to the tree and hoped Caldwell would hurry. "It was slightly emotional when we finished it. I had a wave of, 'Oh wow.' I'm pretty proud we saw it through."

The duo broke the record three times in the past week, carving more than 20 minutes off a 2017 mark. Honnold said it would have been easy to stop after breaking records Monday and May 30, but they pressed toward the two-hour goal he considered the "human potential."

Hans Florine, who has held the record on and off between 1990 and 2012 — the last time with Honnold — said the mark is equivalent to the ongoing quest to break the two-hour marathon or Roger Bannister's 1954 achievement in the mile.

"We were pushing the five-hour barrier before and then the

four-hour barrier and then the three-hour barrier. So which one of those is the four-minute mile?" Florine said before the mark was broken. "I think it is getting close."

Climbing times on El Cap have fallen precipitously since Warren Harding and two others made the first ascent 60 years ago. That took 12 days in a final push following 48 days of advance work over 18 months as Harding pounded bolts into the rock to aid his climb.

"As I hammered in the last bolt and staggered over the rim, it was not at all clear to me who was the conqueror and who was the conquered," Harding said afterward.

Solo says don't vote
for US World Cup bid

Associated Press

LONDON — A World Cup winner and Olympic champion with the United States, Hope Solo now wants her country to lose one of its biggest soccer contests: FIFA's vote on the 2026 World Cup host.

"I can't say it should be awarded to Morocco," Solo told The Associated Press. "But I don't think it should go to the United States, and that's hard to say."

By choosing to actively campaign against the U.S.-led North America bid, Solo risks alienating herself further from the soccer community in her homeland.

The bid leadership was exasperated when informed Solo was undermining their efforts heading into Wednesday's vote, dismissing her criticism of the governance of soccer but declining to go on the record in detail.

This is not an isolated eruption against U.S. Soccer. Solo has reason to be disgruntled. After 202 international appearances — a record for an American goalkeeper — Solo was fired over an outburst at the 2016 Olympics against the opposition and a series of off-

the-field controversies.

In an attempt to take control of the organization that ostracized her, Solo ran for the U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) presidency in February. There was a resounding verdict: Solo garnered only 1.4 percent of the vote to finish last out of five candidates.

Solo still wants to be heard to try to secure equal pay and equal treatment for the U.S. women's team, and force Major League Soccer to open up the closed competition. Her gripes provide a counterpoint to the loyal championing of the American World Cup bid by David Beckham in a video released by MLS, where the former England captain is launching a team in Miami. That is only possible because Beckham secured a cut-price deal for an expansion franchise as part of his contract to play for the Los Angeles Galaxy.

"That is not helping the sport in America," Solo said. "I want to see promotion-relegation in the NASL and the MLS. Right now it's true, you have rich ownership groups owning MLS teams and they're only getting richer and they're alienating everybody else."

Oregon State's Heimlich
goes undrafted again

Teams pass on troubled past

By DENNIS
 WASZAK Jr.
 Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oregon State pitcher Luke Heimlich, who as a teenager pleaded guilty to molesting a 6-year-old relative, was not selected in the Major League Baseball draft for the second straight year.

Heimlich is a two-time Pac-12 pitcher of the year and is regarded as one of college baseball's top players, but his troubled past has given big league teams pause.

The 22-year-old left-hander was expected to be drafted in the early rounds last year until The Oregonian reported last June that Heimlich admitted to the crime when he was 15. He did not play for Oregon State last year in the second round of the NCAA Tournament or the College World Series.

Heimlich recently insisted

in stories by Sports Illustrated and The New York Times he was actually innocent and said he pleaded guilty because of poor legal advice — to avoid the possibility of jail time and prevent further stress for the girl.

"Nothing ever happened," he told the Times, "so there is no incident to look back on."

In an interview with the Times, the girl's mother said "there is no way he didn't do it."

The three-day draft concluded Wednesday night, with 1,214 players selected — but not Heimlich.

The Oregon State star is 15-1 with a 2.42 ERA and 142 strikeouts against just 25 walks in 111 2/3 innings this season. The Beavers are hosting Minnesota in the super regionals starting Friday, with the winner of the best-of-three series advancing to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. Heimlich, who is 26-2 over the last two seasons, is expected to pitch against the Golden Gophers.



Red Schoendienst

Schoendienst
dies at 95, was
oldest living
Hall of Famer

ST. LOUIS — If there was ever anyone who lived his life The Cardinal Way, it was Red Schoendienst.

Right down to his ruby name. The team color, of course.

Schoendienst, the Hall of Fame second baseman who managed St. Louis to two pennants and a World Series championship in the 1960s, died Wednesday. He was 95.

The Cardinals announced Schoendienst's death before the third inning of their game against the Miami Marlins. A photo was shown on the video board with "1923-2018" written below. Fans gave a standing ovation, while players stood and applauded.

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