

# SPORTS

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# BEAVER PITCH

## Abel pitches complete-game shutout, leads Oregon State to its third national title

By ERIC OLSON  
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Arkansas missed a chance to win the College World Series when a foul pop dropped between two infielders and the right fielder. Oregon State made the Razorbacks pay for it behind one of the best pitching performances in a title game.

Freshman Kevin Abel threw a two-hitter for his record fourth victory in the CWS, and Oregon State — a night after escaping on the ninth-inning, two-out foul ball fiasco, beat Arkansas 5-0 on Thursday night for its third title.

Abel was the fourth pitcher in the CWS' 71-year history to throw a shutout in a title game, and the first to do it allowing so few hits.

"Kept making pitches, kept getting outs," Abel said. "I felt better as the game went on and just rode it out. I was going to give it everything I had. I really appreciate they let me go out there. It was a lot of fun."

He retired the last 20 batters, catching Luke Bonfield looking at strike three on a 3-2 pitch to end it.

Oregon State (55-12-1) capped a two-year run in which it won 111 of 130 games.

"As soon as the last play was made, I just got goose bumps," Trevor Larnach said. "Came in



AP Photo/Nati Harnik

Oregon State players celebrate after they beat Arkansas 5-0 in Thursday's Game 3 to win the NCAA College World Series baseball finals in Omaha, Neb.

and ran probably jumped the highest I've ever jumped. But that was a jump of joy. Last year left a salty taste in our mouth, and every single person on the team probably remembers that. Ever since then, we were out to finish the job. We

sure did finish." On Wednesday, Arkansas failed to catch a two-out pop foul in the ninth inning that would have secured its first national title. The Beavers, down to their last strike, rallied to force the winner-take-all

Game 3. "There was probably still that 'What if?' and disappointment. It's human nature," Razorbacks coach Dave Van Horn said about the emotional hangover. "We had a good hitters' meeting, we let them sleep

in, pregame was good. Seemed like they were locked in. But we never got that hit. We never got anything going. Who's to say? I don't think we'll ever know. If Abel hadn't thrown so well, maybe it's a little different story, but he didn't give us a chance."

Oregon State, which came from behind for three of its six CWS wins, was in control all the way in the winner-take-all Game 3. Arkansas (48-21) was shut out for the first time in 100 games.

Abel (8-1) ran into trouble in the third when Arkansas loaded the bases with one out. He struck out Heston Kjerstad and got Bonfield to fly out to end the inning, and the Razorbacks had no base runners the rest of the night. Abel struck out 10 and walked two in a 129-pitch outing.

Adley Rutschman, who set a CWS record with 17 hits, went 3 for 4 and drove in two runs. He was 17 for 30 (.567) with 13 RBIs in eight games and was named the CWS Most Outstanding Player. Rutschman singled his first three times at bat and drove in a run in the first against Isaiah Campbell (5-7) and another in the third for a 3-0 lead.

Abel had been used as a starter and reliever this season, and his versatility and durability were important for the depleted pitching staff.

0

Number of times Arkansas had been shut out this season.

3

The number of NCAA baseball championships now won by OSU: 2006, 2007 and 2018.

4

Freshman Kevin Abel is the first pitcher ever to win four games in the CWS.

17

Total hits in the College World Series for OSU catcher Adley Rutschman, a CWS record.

20

The number of consecutive Arkansas batters that were retired by Abel to end the game.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### M's complete 4-game sweep of Orioles

BALTIMORE — In an unprecedented four-game sweep in Baltimore, the Seattle Mariners outscored the Orioles by a total of six runs and twice prevailed in extra innings.

The difference between the two teams, to a large degree, is that Seattle finds a way to win, and the Orioles keep coming up with a variety of ways to lose.

Nelson Cruz homered and the Mariners won a 4-2 game that

## WORLD CUP ROUND OF 16

Lionel Messi during a Thursday training session of Argentina at the 2018 soccer World Cup in Bronnitsy, Russia.

AP Photo/Ricardo Mazalan



### vs. France vs. Uruguay

By BEN NUCKOLS  
Associated Press

MOSCOW — No matter what Lionel Messi does at the World Cup, Diego Maradona will be watching.

With FIFA's in-stadium cameras cutting to Maradona's every outsize reaction and the antics of Argentina's biggest World Cup hero generating breathless media attention, Maradona is an inescapable part of what could be Messi's final World Cup. He's sure to be emotional in the stands again on Saturday when Argentina begins the round of 16 against a talented squad.

Messi's club career eclipsed Maradona's. five-time FIFA Player Year, has led Barcelona three Champions League and holds a long list of records, including 101 goals in a club season — 2011-12.

But Maradona led his national team in the biggest moments. Maradona is attending this year's World Cup as

a FIFA ambassador, the subject of an documentary by director of about Formula 1 ton Senna and Winehouse.

Only a few would allow Maradona to escape. He's 31, an age when many players begin to decline, the pressure on him is immense. And it showed when he missed a penalty kick in Argentina's opening draw against Iceland. He got his first goal of the tournament in the 2-1 win over Nigeria that put Argentina into the



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## SCOREBOARD

### LOCAL SPORTS SCHEDULE

**TODAY**  
Junior state baseball — Seaside at Knappa (2), 4 p.m.  
**SATURDAY**  
Baseball — Warrenton Alumni day, noon