

Portland **Sports** Observer

Seattle M's Shut Out Yankees in Game One

Freddy Garcia and Seattle's bullpen put the New York Yankees right back in their postseason funk. Garcia dominated for 6 and 2-3 innings in a six-hitter, and Alex Rodriguez and Rickey Henderson supplied the offense, leading the Mariners over New York 2-0 Tuesday night in the opener of the AL

championship series. "He certainly pitched well when he had to," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "He pitched pretty well when he didn't have to." Seattle tries to go home with a 2-0 lead tonight when John Halama pitches against Orlando Hernandez.

"We have to attack them, attack them early and be ready to go to war," said Rodriguez, who hit a massive solo homer. "They're going to come out real hungry and be ready to go to war tomorrow." Garcia, one of the young pitchers obtained two years ago from

Houston in the Randy Johnson trade, allowed just three hits, struck out eight and handled the two-time World Series champions like an old pro. "If they pitch like they pitched tonight, then we're not going to win the series," Yankees reliever Jeff Nelson said.

The 24-year-old right-hander stranded runners at third base in the third and fifth innings and escaped a two-on, no-outs jam in the sixth. With the crowd on its feet, Mariners manager Lou Piniella went to the mound. "I was feeling pretty good. I

had a lot of confidence," Garcia remembered telling his manager. Piniella stuck with Garcia, who struck out Paul O'Neill and Bernie Williams, then retired David Justice on a flyout when Mike Cameron caught one step in front of the center-field fence.

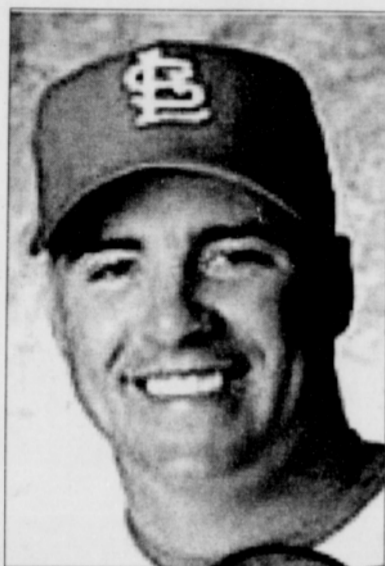
Cardinals Counting on Darryl Kile

The St. Louis Cardinals' World Series aspirations largely fall on the shoulders of Darryl Kile, who could get three starts in the NLCS.

Kile, who rebounded from eight victories in Colorado last year to his first 20-win season this year, will go in Game 1 of the best-of-seven series against the New York Mets. Manager Tony La Russa said he could also go in Games 4 and 7, each time on three days' rest.

Kile, who won Game 2 of the Cardinals' surprising opening sweep of the Atlanta Braves in the division series, said Monday he's not interested in looking ahead.

"All I know is I've been given a job to do on Wednesday and I'm going



Darryl Kile

ries," joked Benes, who pitched in the season finale Oct. 1. "I'm well-rested, very well-rested."

The Cardinals' No. 2 winner, Garrett Stephenson, doesn't figure in the equation. Stephenson (16-9) left the clincher against the Braves after 3-2-3 innings and is out for the rest of the season with an elbow injury.

Team physician Dr. George Paletta said the injury was brought on by Stephenson's career-high 200 1-3 innings and will not require surgery.

"Garrett is depressed," La Russa said. "I don't think there's any question that you'll see him the next time in spring training."

La Russa was undecided whether to replace Stephenson with a posi-

tion player, probably outfielder-pinch hitter Thomas Howard, or reliever Alan Benes. La Russa said he likely would go with the extra bat.

The Cardinals will be facing left-handers the first two games and La Russa said outfielder Eric Davis, who batted .390 against lefties, would be in the lineup. He doesn't anticipate a change at third base, either, where Placido Polanco replaced slumping Fernando Tatis (3-for-36) the entire Braves series.

"Is there anything wrong with the way the other guy played?" La Russa said. "That's the thing."

Polanco has a slight hamstring injury but said it should not pose a problem.

Trail Blazers Set Broadcast Schedule

The Portland Trail Blazers have announced their 2000-2001 local television broadcast schedule in Partnership with KGW-TV, Channel 8. Blazer fans throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington will be returning to catch 25 regular season games on NBC-affiliate KGW. In addition, NBC will air six regular season games, TBS air one game and TNT will air nine games.

Blazers fans have a chance to catch new players Dale Davis, Will Perdue and Shawn Kemp before the season opener against the Los Angeles Lakers when KGW airs the Blazers' pre-season game against the Sacramento Kings on October 27. KGW will televise the Blazers regular season opener

on October 31, 2000.

"We are delighted that KGW can present this schedule of games to our fans," said Harry Hutt, senior vice president of marketing operations for the Blazers. "The Blazers are dedicated to bringing both home and road games, as well as some of our best opponents to fans."

In addition to the preseason game against Sacramento (Oct. 27) and the home opener against Los Angeles (Oct. 31), KGW-TV will carry Miami (Nov. 18), Indiana (Jan. 25) and San Antonio (Dec. 27) as well as Seattle, Toronto, Orlando, Washington, Milwaukee, Houston, Phoenix, Denver, Utah, Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, The

Clippers, Dallas, Minnesota and Golden State. NBC Sports will televise six Blazers games including the Lakers (Christmas Day and April 15), New York (Jan. 13), Sacramento (Jan. 20 and April 8) and Minnesota (Jan. 27).

In addition to the regular season games, Blazer flagship station KGW will also carry Rip City TV once a month throughout the season. The programs include features on Blazers players and basketball personnel, interviews, videos and news about the team on and off the court.

In addition to television, all Blazers preseason, regular season and post-season games will air on 750 KXL.

Blazers Hold Open Scrimmage For Fans in the Rose Garden

Blazers basketball action is heating up in Portland! The Blazers are inviting fans to get a sneak peek at the

team at a Free scrimmage at the Rose Garden today at 7 p.m.

Free tickets are available at all

Portland Metro and Clark County area Bank of America banking centers. Fans can also get tickets at the Rose Quarter Ticket Office starting Monday, October 9. Seating is on a first come, first serve basis, doors open at 5:30 p.m. Last year, tickets were gone within 48 hours of releasing them.

Minnesota Rolls Over Bucs, Stay Unbeaten

Monday night is Randy Moss time. The Minnesota Vikings wide receiver, who had his first big game as a pro on a Monday night two years ago, caught a 41-yard TD pass midway through the fourth quarter to give the Vikings a 30-23 victory over Tampa Bay.

The Vikings joined St. Louis as the NFL's only unbeaten teams at 5-0.

It was the third straight loss for Tampa Bay (3-3) which entered the season as the clear favorite to win the

NFC Central. While they won the division last season after starting 3-4, they're now 2 1/2 games behind Minnesota.

The Vikings led for nearly the entire game following Daunte Culpepper's 27-yard scramble for a touchdown 24 seconds into the game after Keyshawn Johnson fumbled after catching a pass on the Bucs' first play from scrimmage.

But the Tampa Bay defense gradually took control, despite another fumble that led to a Minnesota touch-

down. Then, early in the fourth quarter, with the Bucs trailing 20-16, Andre Hastings fumbled a punt and set the Vikings up at the Bucs 39.

On fourth down, the Vikings set up for a 53-yard field-goal attempt. But Warren Sapp, who blocked a field-goal attempt in Washington last week, blocked it and Donnie Abraham picked up the ball and raced untouched for the score to put Tampa Bay up 23-20.

Then the Minnesota offense came to life.

Portland State Climbs To Fourth In The Nation

The Portland State Vikings football climbed one more spot to fourth in the nation in The Sports Network's NCAA 1-AA Top 25 poll released today. The Vikings are coming off a 42-10 road win over Northern Arizona.

Portland State began the season ranked 12th and has steadily moved up following its 4-0 start. It is the Vikings best start since a 5-0 beginning in 1969. PSU received 16 first-place votes, up from four last week and the second most in the poll.

This week the Vikings return home to play 10th ranked Hofstra as their difficult schedule continues. It is the beginning of five out seven games at home for PSU. Kickoff is 2:05 p.m. at Hillsboro Stadium. Tickets can be purchased at any Ticketmaster outlet.

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