

Sports shorts

Greinke’s shutout streak on hold for birth of first child

NEW YORK (AP) — Zack Greinke’s shutout streak is on hold while the Los Angeles Dodgers ace and his wife await the birth of their first child.

Greinke has pitched 43 2-3 scoreless innings, and was set to start Friday night against the New York Mets at Citi Field. He is approaching the big league record of 59 straight scoreless innings by Orel Hershiser in 1988 for the Dodgers.

Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said before Thursday night’s game against the Mets that Greinke had returned to Los Angeles early in the morning to join wife Emily.

Mattingly received a call in his hotel room at 5 a.m. from Greinke, who caught a flight a couple of hours later.

“To get back to pitch tomorrow would be, I’d say unrealistic, but we do feel like there’s a good chance he’d pitch this weekend,” Mattingly said.

After Kazmir gets traded, A’s lose to Blue Jays 5-2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The veterans on the Oakland Athletics — the few who have been on the team long enough to understand, anyway — have grown accustomed to watching teammates get traded away unexpectedly.

It still never gets any easier when it happens.

Hours after scheduled starter Scott Kazmir was traded to Houston for two minor league prospects on Thursday, the A’s lost 5-2 to the Toronto Blue Jays.

The news of Kazmir’s trade caught players by surprise. They spent the morning saying goodbye to Kazmir as he packed his belongings in the clubhouse, and they looked equally baffled by knuckleballer R.A. Dickey’s tricky tosses.

“All the talks and speculation of him going is something you can kind of try to prepare for, but once it actually happens it is tough to see somebody like that go,” right fielder Josh Reddick said.

Drew Pomeranz started in Kazmir’s place but didn’t last long. Pomeranz gave up two runs in 1 2-3 innings, and the bullpen also struggled to contain Toronto’s potent hitters.

“When you’re here in Oakland, you understand that moves are made, whether it’s offseason or in-season.”

— Bob Melvin
A’s manager on trading Scott Kazmir

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1908 — John Hayes wins the Olympic marathon in a record of 2 hours, 55 minutes, 18.4 seconds. Italian Dorando Pietri is the first runner to enter the stadium but collapses several times before being disqualified when officials help him across the line.

1976 — John Naber of the United States becomes the first swimmer to break the 2-minute barrier in the 200-meter backstroke at the Olympics in Montreal.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com

9/10 Little League Softball All-Stars

Young Bucks one win from title

East Oregonian

The Pendleton 9/10-year-old softball team extended its season Thursday with a narrow 3-1 win over Beaumont/Parkside in the first of two possible state championship games in Gresham.

The Bucks, who rallied from a loss earlier in the tournament to advance through the loser’s bracket to the championship series, had to beat an undefeated Beaumont/

Parkside Thursday to set up a de facto championship game on Friday.

Pendleton used a three-run fourth inning to claw past Beaumont/Parkside despite tallying just three hits and committing three errors.

But Sauren Gadsten was again stellar in the circle. She tossed her second complete game in as many attempts, allowing just five hits, an unearned run and whiffed 10 batters while walking just two.

Beaumont/Parkside got its only run

in the bottom of the first, when an error and a single put them on the board.

Pendleton was held scoreless until the fourth when the Bucks scored three times with just two hits. Jaden Samp started things with a walk, then Ellie Samford reached on a bunt single to push Samp to second, and a throwing error gave Samp time to come around and tie things at one run apiece. After an out, Muriel Hoisington also reached on a bunt single, scoring Samford to

take the 2-1 lead. The Bucks added their final run when Charlie Mae Franklin reached on an error, plating Hoisington. Hoisington finished 2 for 2 with Pendleton’s lone RBI.

“I’m just really poured of the way the girls have been playing,” head coach Justin Samp said. “They’ve been playing their hearts out. They’ve been playing excellent.”

Pendleton plays Beaumont/Parkside again Friday for the 9/10-year-old state championship in Gresham.



Seattle Mariners’ Mike Zunino hits a line drive to left field to drive in Chris Taylor and break a 2-2 tie with the Detroit Tigers during the 12th inning of a baseball game Thursday in Detroit.

Zunino gets big hit in extras

DETROIT (AP) — Seattle catcher Mike Zunino wasn’t expecting to play in a day game after being in the lineup a night earlier.

It didn’t quite work out that way.

Zunino had an RBI double in the top of the 12th inning after entering the game in the 10th, lifting the Mariners to a 3-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Thursday.

“That wasn’t exactly what I had planned for the day, but I’m always happy to contribute to a victory,” said Zunino, who threw out speedy Detroit baserunner Anthony Gose on a potential wild pitch in the 10th after Jesus Sucre left for a pinch-hitter.

Baseball

Seattle Mariners

3

Detroit Tigers

2

“Especially a great win like this one.”

Chris Taylor started the 12th with a single off Ian Krol (1-3), and Zunino tried to bunt him to second. After two failed attempts, Zunino doubled down the left-field line. Yoenis Cespedes misread the bounce off the fence, allowing Taylor to score the go-ahead run.

“I was really frustrated when I didn’t get the bunt down, so I was just looking for a pitch I could put into play,” said Zunino, who is hitting just .169. “I wanted to make something happen after these guys fought for so long.”

Tom Wilhelmssen pitched the bottom of the 12th for his first save of the season after Fernando Rodney (3-4) threw a scoreless 11th.

Neither starter was involved in the decision.

David Price, the subject of trade rumors with Detroit (47-48) struggling to get above .500, allowed two runs in eight-plus innings.

The star left-hander got standing ovations from the crowd of 40,225 at the end of the eighth

See MARINERS/2B

Senior American Legion baseball

DiamondJaxx sweep La Grande

Cockburn throws shutout, Jaxx bats come alive

East Oregonian

Quinn Cockburn tossed a two-hitter, his offense piled on 14 hits and 11 runs and Pendleton took the first two games of a district/area championship series Thursday over La Grande.

The DiamondJaxx head to Grants Pass next week for its state tournament.

In the day’s first game,

Pendleton scored three runs in the top of the sixth to clinch the win behind Cockburn’s dominant performance.

La Grande got its two hits in the first two innings, but Cockburn settled down for the next five. He finished with seven strikeouts and two walks in the shutout.

Meanwhile, Pendleton was struggling to score runs behind him. The DiamondJaxx got a couple aboard in the top of the first, but a double play and a ground out alleviated the threat.

That was until the top half of the sixth. Witt Morris led off with a single, and Jack Peterson, trying

to bunt Morris to second, reached safely on an error. Cockburn then singled on a bunt to load the bases for Devon Roe, who lashed a double to left to plate Morris and Peterson and sent Cockburn to third. Kai Quinn then grounded out sharply to short stop, scoring Cockburn and giving Pendleton all the runs it would need.

From there, Cockburn allowed just two base runners in the 3-0 win.

Following the narrow pitching-and-defense win, Pendleton’s bats heated up. The DiamondJaxx, offsetting a six-run La Grande

See JAXX/2B

Knowles nears NFR lock in Cheyenne

By JOHNA CRAVENS
for Cheyenne Frontier Days

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Heppner cowboy Blake Knowles could secure his third trip to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo after taking the overall lead in steer wrestling at the sixth performance of the 119th Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo.

Knowles, who’s currently ranked ninth in the world standings, had a total time of 21.3 seconds on two steers after stopping the clock in 11.7 seconds on Thursday. He is placing fifth in the first round with a 9.6. He is out of the money in the second round, but still stands to win a pile of money. His consistency should put him in good position in Sunday’s final championship round.



Knowles

The ranch-raised cowboy still works on Healy Ranch near Heppner when he’s not traveling across the country with his cousin Trevor Knowles competing in rodeos. Trevor is currently seventh overall at Cheyenne and 11th in the world championship standings.

Neither cowboy has won a championship at Cheyenne. Blake’s father Butch Knowles, the 1987 NFR Champion in saddle bronc riding and a four-time qualifier in that event hasn’t won a Cheyenne championship either. Blake could be the first in his accomplished rodeo family to win a prestigious Cheyenne Frontier Days buckle.

Wyoming cowboy Seth Hardwick took the lead in the second round of bareback riding with a score of 84 points on Pickett Pro Rodeo’s Bar Code. That gave him a total of 163 points and tied him for the overall lead with Minnesota’s Tanner Aus. Hardwick, who lives in Laramie, could be the first Wyoming cowboy in a decade to win the Cheyenne Frontier Days bareback championship.

Hardwick came close to qualifying for his first NFR last year, finishing in the top 25. He’s built on that success and is currently ranked seventh in the world standings and

See KNOWLES/2B

Gordon honored at boyhood home before final Brickyard 400

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer



NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon waves to fans along the parade route in Pittsboro, Ind., Thursday. Pittsboro had a parade for Gordon as part of his farewell tour. Gordon will drive in Sunday’s Brickyard 400.

PITTSBORO, Ind. — Jeff Gordon felt right at home Thursday back in small-town Indiana.

His parents, some of his longtime friends and even some of his former high school teachers were among hundreds of people lining the streets in Pittsboro to celebrate Gordon as he wraps up his final full-time season in NASCAR.

It was a fitting place for the biggest stop yet on his farewell tour.

Here, a short drive from Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Gordon honed his racing skills before he was old enough to obtain a driver’s license. Here, he learned the importance of balancing weekend races

with daily life. And now, three days before driving in his final Brickyard 400, Gordon came back to a community full of tall corn stalks, endless farming fields and dozens of mementoes bearing his well-known No. 24 to thank his biggest fans.

“This is very cool,” Gordon said after participating in the short parade and brief awards ceremony. “Pittsboro is obviously very memorable to me because we lived here, raced out of here. Several years ago, they named Jeff Gordon Boulevard, so there have always been great experiences here. But to come here and have it be my last Brickyard 400, it’s pretty overwhelming. It’s putting a big smile on my face for the weekend.”

The only thing that would

See BRICKYARD/2B