

NBC going live for Olympics, mostly

Associated Press

NEWYORK—A swimmer with a heart-wrenching history is about to race at the Olympics, so of course NBC will first air a slickly produced feature full of teary interviews and stirring music.

Not next year. Not enough time.

With the 2016 Summer Games taking place in Rio de Janeiro, which is just an hour ahead of the United States' Eastern time zone, the network can broadcast many high-profile events live in prime time. Make no mistake, NBC executives are thrilled about that prospect, but it means tweaking a formula that has worked so well in recent Olympics.

"People still react to live," NBC Sports Group Chairman Mark Lazarus said Wednesday, a year before the start of the Rio Games. "While we've been very successful in delayed coverage because the Olympics are so unique, live is still better."

There will be plenty of those trademark features, though some may need to appear at other times of day or online instead of on the centerpiece prime-time telecasts.

It will be "less that polished presentation the time delay affords you," said executive producer Jim Bell, "and more rock and roll sports event."

MARINERS: 8th walk-off loss of season

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Colorado, which managed just two hits through the first five innings, rallied to tie it in the sixth on Gonzalez's 22nd home run, which traveled an estimated 465 feet.

"I looked at (bench coach Tom Runnells) after CarGo's homer and said, 'These guys are killing us 3-3.' That's what it felt like," Rockies manager Walt Weiss said. "Walker was in complete control of the game and he was pretty filthy. To get three runs with one swing, that was pretty huge."

HIT PARADE

Gutierrez finished with three hits for the first time since doing it at Detroit on Sept. 18, 2013.

WALK-OFF MAD

The Mariners suffered their eighth walk-off loss of the season. Since the beginning of the 2010 season they have suffered 63 walk-off losses, which is most in the major leagues.

UP NEXT

Mariners: RHP Hisashi Iwakuma (2-2, 4.47) will open a three-game series at home against Texas on Friday. Iwakuma tossed 8 2-3 innings of one-run ball against Minnesota on Sunday.

BRIEFLY

Echo Hills to host Golf 'Fore' Life

ECHO — Pregnancy Care Services of Pendleton and Hermiston announced that its Golf 'Fore' Life Tournament and BBQ Dinner will be held on Aug. 29 at Echo Hills Golf Course.

The tournament is a four person scramble format that will span nine holes at the course.

Registration for the tournament or the dinner needs to be completed by Aug. 13 and can be done one of two ways. You can sign up online at pregnancycareservices.com or mail your registration to the PCS offices at 311 SE Dorion Ave., Pendleton, OR, 97801.

Sign in for the tournament will start at 1 p.m. on the 29th, with a shotgun start at 2 p.m.

For more information you can contact the PCS offices at (541) 276-5757.

— East Oregonian

Golf

A jug in hand, Zach Johnson gets back to work

Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — Jordan Spieth gets to play with Zach Johnson one tournament too late.

When last seen on the golf course, Spieth missed out on a three-man playoff at the British Open that ended his bid for a Grand Slam. He came back out and watched from the steps of the Royal & Ancient clubhouse at St. Andrews as Johnson, a good friend, won the claret jug.

The only players to win majors this year will be paired Thursday when the Bridgestone Invitational begins at Firestone.

The World Golf Championship event offers big money, free FedEx Cup points and for some of the 77 players in the field, a chance to make sure their games are in shape for the PGA Championship the following week in Wisconsin.

Spieth and Johnson are coming off three-week breaks, both taking time off to celebrate after getting back from St. Andrews.

Johnson hasn't let the silver claret jug out of his sight, though golf's oldest trophy has been put to good use.

"We've had wine in there. We've had champagne in there, obviously some beer in there and that kind of stuff," he said. "My kids drank water out of it. They thought that was pretty cool. I did have a corn on the cob in it."

Corn on the cob? Indeed, he posted a photo on Twitter over the weekend of a corn cob in the jug as he pretends to take a bite. He figured



Zach Johnson chips to the 16th green during the practice round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015, in Akron, Ohio.

it was only fitting since Johnson still sees himself as a regular guy from Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"I did have a corn on the cob in it. I did not eat the corn on the cob out of it," Johnson said Tuesday. "It was just a picture because I am from the state of Iowa. ... I thought it would be a cool little picture, and I'm telling you, the Iowa folk, the Midwest folk in general, thought it was pretty awesome."

Spieth's celebration was more personal. He turned 22 last week.

It's a peculiar friendship if it were based strictly on age. Johnson's wife reminded him recently that at 39, the two-time major champion is nearly old enough to be Spieth's father. They spent

time together late in 2013 during Spieth's rookie season and have a few friends in the same circle that keep them connected.

Spieth surprised Johnson by living up to his word even as his fame grew. He had told Johnson after winning the Masters that he would take part in his charity event ahead of the John Deere Classic. And then he won the U.S. Open that put him halfway home to the Grand Slam. Spieth still showed up at the charity event, and the John Deere Classic, which he won for his fourth title this year.

"What he did, and honoring his commitment, is beyond classy and just goes to show once again how much he truly gets it," Johnson

said. "He didn't have to do it, but maybe he thought it was in his best interests, too."

The Bridgestone Invitational will be missing its defending champion for the first time since 2008 when Tiger Woods was recuperating from knee surgery. Rory McIlroy won last year during his summer trifecta — British Open, Bridgestone, PGA Championship — but he still is recovering from an ankle injury he suffered playing soccer in Northern Ireland and has not determined if he can even play at Whistling Straits next week.

Woods won't be around either, missing for the first time because he wasn't eligible. The field is for the top 50 in the world (Woods is No. 262), members of the last Ryder Cup team (he wasn't on it) and winners of top events from tours around the world. Woods hasn't won in two years dating to his eighth career victory at Firestone.

"You win the bloody tournament eight times, you probably should ... oh man, it's tough," Day said about Woods' absence. "It's something that we have to earn our spots in these tournaments. Unfortunately, right now he's going through a spell where he's not playing that great. For him, he never had to think about it because he was No. 1 for so long, it was just part of his schedule."

"Someday I'm going to go through the exact same thing where I have to somehow earn my way back into this tournament, but I'm hoping it's a long way away from now."

SEAHAWKS: King, Dobbs also to get work in lineman rotation

Continued from 1B

Jones said. "... That's very evident to see in the short time that he's been here. He's a great addition to the group. Quiet guy but one of those quiet, silent assassins kind of guys."

The Seahawks haven't been particularly effective in drafting interior defensive linemen under Carroll and general manager John Schneider. Instead, they've

found success with veteran free agents like McDaniel, Kevin Williams, Cliff Avril and Michael Bennett in recent seasons at marginal cost. Ruben could be the next in that line of key free agent acquisitions for Seattle.

Rubin will be the first in line to replace McDaniel. David King and Demarcus Dobbs will also get a chance to work into the rotation.

"My role is just to come here and try and ball out and

make plays, stop the run and get a couple sacks if I can," Ruben said.

Mebane, 30, has been one of the most consistent pieces of Seattle's defenses over the last eight seasons. He was putting together one of the best years of his career in 2014 when a torn hamstring suffered in November ended his season. Mebane was hurt trying to chase down a wide receiver screen in a victory over the New York Giants.

Mebane said he felt like he was back to 100-percent in April and is in some of the best shape of his career.

"Really now it's just the mental part of it," Mebane said. "Physically I feel great. I feel like I'm about 25, 24 (years old)."

Mebane will resume his role as the team's starting nose tackle with Ruben setting up alongside in the team's base defense. However, Carroll said they will move the pair

around to best maximize their abilities together.

"I think Brandon is probably in the best shape of his life so he's ready to play nose tackle and Ruben will play three-technique for the most part. But both those guys could flip," Carroll said. "There will be times when we might want to match up and we'll do different things. We'll uncover the versatility as we go through camp and the early season."

SWIMMING: Franklin struggling as meet reaches halfway point

Continued from 1B

She rallied from fourth after the first two laps to touch first in 1 minute, 55.16 seconds for her second gold medal of the championships. She already won the 1,500 free, lowering her own world record in the preliminaries and final.

Pellegrini of Italy finished second in 1:55.32, and Franklin was third in 1:55.49.

"I knew it was going to be a really competitive field and that was something that was really special for me," Ledecy said. "It was an honor to be in a heat like that."

Femke Heemskerk of the Netherlands took it out strongly, dipping under world-record pace on the opening lap. She was still in front through the third lap before fading to eighth.

Franklin was second and Ledecy fourth halfway through the most anticipated women's race in Kazan. Ledecy moved up to second behind Heemskerk on the third lap while Franklin dropped to third.

"After racing with Katie

for the last couple of years, I know her last 25 is always just ridiculous and that's how Katie is too," Franklin said. "I knew she was going to come back really strong."

Two years ago in Barcelona, Ledecy won four golds and set two world records. The recent high school graduate shows no signs of slowing down in Kazan, where she still has the 400 and 800 freestyles remaining.

"I never really feel pressure," said Ledecy, who burst onto the world stage with a gold in the 800 free at the 2012 Olympics. "Going into London I didn't and since then I've just tried to maintain that same mentality."

Better known as a distance specialist, Ledecy was competing in the 200 free for the first time at the worlds.

"I had plenty of training to do all of these races and I knew that I could trust in my training," Ledecy said. "That confidence has fueled my swims this week."

Ledecy's successes have been the lone bright spot for the U.S. team halfway

through the meet in Kazan.

Franklin picked up her second bronze medal, having helped the U.S. finish third in the 4x100 free relay Sunday. She was fifth in the 100 backstroke. She recently turned professional after swimming in college for two years, and has yet to regain the form that carried her to a record six gold medals two years ago at the worlds.

Sun Yang of China rallied to take the lead on the next-to-last lap and won the 800 free in 7:39.96 to go with his earlier victory in the 400 free.

Gregorio Paltrinieri of Italy finished second in 7:40.81 after leading for six laps until he was passed late by Sun, who earned his third consecutive world title.

Mack Horton of Australia, who led the first eight laps, settled for third at 7:44.02.

Laszlo Cseh of Hungary overtook Chad Le Clos to win the 200 butterfly as the oldest man in the final at age 29.

Cseh trailed Le Clos after the first two laps before passing the South African midway through the third

lap. He hung on and touched first in 1:53.48.

Defending champion Le Clos settled for silver in 1:53.68, and Jan Switkowski of Poland earned bronze in 1:54.10.

"I tried to take it out really hard. I wanted to see if I could scare them off the first 100 but it didn't work out," Le Clos said.

It was Cseh's first gold at the worlds since 2005 in Montreal, where he won the 400 individual medley. He has reunited with his childhood coach ahead of next year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

"I know I need to keep working on the race," Cseh said. "My last 20 was a little bit hard but it was an enjoyable race and I'm very happy."

Michael Phelps, the world-record holder, was forced to miss the world meet as part of his suspension after a second drunk-driving arrest. He will be competing at U.S. nationals in Texas this week.

Adam Peaty of Britain earned his second individual gold medal with a victory

in the 50 breaststroke, a non-Olympic event. He set the world record in the semi-finals Tuesday and came back to win in 26.51.

Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa finished second in 26.66. Kevin Cordes of the United States was third in 26.86.

Peaty and van der Burgh also finished 1-2 in the 100 breaststroke.

Vladimir Morozov of Russia, a gold-medal favorite in the 100 free, was disqualified for a false start after winning his semifinal heat. He sat on the lane line in shock at the announcement.

"When I jumped, I knew it was a false start," he said. "The really painful thing was that I gave it everything and got that kind of result, 48.1, pretty much a gold medal. I had the best chance over that distance."

Britain's Chris Walker-Hebborn, Peaty, Siobhan O'Connor and Fran Halsall won the mixed relay in 3:41.71, a world record in the new event.

The United States was second and Germany third.

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

MLB				
American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	60	46	566	—
Toronto	57	52	523	4½
Baltimore	55	52	514	5½
Tampa Bay	54	55	495	7½
Boston	48	60	444	13
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Kansas City	63	43	594	—
Minnesota	54	53	505	9½
Detroit	52	55	486	11½
Chicago	51	55	481	12
Cleveland	49	58	458	14½
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	60	49	550	—
Los Angeles	57	50	533	2
Texas	54	53	505	5
Seattle	50	59	459	10
Oakland	48	61	440	12

Wednesday's Games				
Chicago White Sox	6	Tampa Bay	5	10
Innings				
Colorado	7	Seattle	5	11
Baltimore	7	Oakland	3	10
L.A. Angels	4	Cleveland	3	
Boston	2	N.Y. Yankees	1	
Toronto	9	Minnesota	7	
Detroit	2	Kansas City	1	
Texas	4	Houston	3	
Today's Games				
Kansas City	(Ventura 6-7)	at Detroit	(An. Sanchez 10-9)	10:08 a.m.
Boston	(E. Rodriguez 6-3)	at N.Y. Yankees	(Sabathia 4-8)	4:05 p.m.
Minnesota	(Gibson 8-8)	at Toronto	(Buehler 11-5)	4:07 p.m.
Houston	(Feldman 4-5)	at Oakland	(Brooks 1-0)	7:05 p.m.

National League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	58	50	537	—
Washington	55	51	519	2
Atlanta	48	60	444	10
Miami	43	65	398	15
Philadelphia	42	66	389	16
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
St. Louis	68	39	636	—
Pittsburgh	62	44	585	5½
Chicago	58	48	547	9½
Cincinnati	48	57	457	19
Milwaukee	46	63	422	23
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	61	46	570	—
San Francisco	59	48	551	2
Arizona	52	54	491	8½
San Diego	52	56	481	9½
Colorado	45	61	425	15½

Wednesday's Games				
Colorado	7	Seattle	5	11
Arizona	11	Washington	4	
Pittsburgh	7	Chicago Cubs	5	
L.A. Dodgers	4	Philadelphia	3	
N.Y. Mets	8	Miami	6	
San Francisco	6	Atlanta	1	
St. Louis	4	Cincinnati	3	13
Milwaukee	8	San Diego	5	
Today's Games				
St. Louis	(Vacha 12-4)	at Cincinnati	(Lorenzen 3-6)	9:35 a.m.
L.A. Dodgers	(Greinke 10-2)	at Philadelphia	(D.Buchanan 2-5)	10:05 a.m.
San Diego	(Despaigne 5-7)	at Milwaukee	(Garza 5-12)	11:10 a.m.
Arizona	(Hellickson 7-7)	at Washington	(J.Ross 2-3)	1:05 p.m.
Miami	(Urena 1-5)	at Atlanta	(Wisler 5-2)	4:10 p.m.
San Francisco	(Heston 11-5)	at Chicago Cubs	(Hammell 6-5)	5:05 p.m.

Basketball

WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	13	6	684	—
Washington	12	7	632	1
Chicago	13	8	619	1
Indiana	11	9	550	2½
Connecticut	10	9	526	3
Atlanta	7	13	350	6½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	15	5	750	—
Phoenix	13	7	650	2
Tulsa	10	11	476	5½
Los Angeles	6	14	300	9
San Antonio	6	16	273	10
Seattle	5	16	238	10½

Wednesday's Games				
Washington	66	San Antonio	63	
Today's Games				
Tulsa	at Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.		

Second Round

Sam Groth, Australia, def. Viktor Troicki (9), Serbia, 6-3, 6-4.
Feliciano Lopez (7), Spain, def. Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.
Steve Johnson, United States, def. Bernard Tomic (11), Australia, 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2.
John Isner (8), United States, def. Victor Estrella Burgos, Dominican Republic, 6-3, 7-6 (5).
Grigor Dimitrov (6), Bulgaria, def. Guido Pella, Argentina, 7-6 (1), 6-4.
Alexander Zverev, Germany, def. Kevin Anderson (5), South Africa, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Leonardo Mayer (16), Argentina, def. Blaz Rola, Slovenia, 7-6 (2), 6-7 (3), 6-4.
Yevgeny Gerasimov, Russia, def. Andy Murray (1), Britain, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (4).
Ricardas Berankis, Lithuania, def. Pablo Cuevas (14), Uruguay, 6-3, 6-3.

WTA				
Belarus, def. Steve Johnson, United States, and Sam Querrey, United States, 6-4, 7-6 (9).				
First Round				
Sanaz Marand and Taylor Townsend, United States, def. Vitalia Chiech-yu, Taiwan, and Hiroko Kuwata, Japan, 7-5, 5-7, 10-5.				
Alla Kudryavtseva, Russia, and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (1), Russia, def. Alize Cornet, France, and Magda Linette, Poland, 7-5, 6-3.				
Irina Falconi, United States, and Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. An-Sophie Mestach, Belgium, and Alison Van Uytvanck, Belgium, 6-1, 6-2.				
Lara Arruabarrena, Spain, and Andreja Klepac (3), Slovenia, def. Shuko Aoyama and Eri Hozumi, Japan, 6-3, 6-1.				