

## MLB

# Manfred hopeful for Cuba game; owners to discuss netting

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BOCA RATON, Fla. — Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred remains hopeful a big league team will play an exhibition game in Cuba during spring training.

President Barack Obama announced in December his intention to restore diplomatic ties between the United States and Cuba, and embassies were re-established in July.

“There are a variety of issues involved there, not all of which are wholly within baseball’s control,” Manfred said Tuesday at the general managers meetings. “Obviously, the federal government has some significant influence on whether that’s going to take place, and there are issues that need to be solved before that can happen.”

U.S. teams played spring training games in Cuba before Fidel Castro’s revolution but none appeared there from March 1959

until the Baltimore Orioles faced Cuba’s national team in Havana in March 1999. MLB has not returned since.

“We got a little time still. There isn’t really a firm cutoff,” Manfred said. “We’re going to proceed internally and get to the point where we’ve sort of identified who would go, meaning which club would go if we can get it done. And one club maintaining flexibility with respect to a spring training date is a lot easier than 25 clubs maintaining that flexibility.”

On other topics:

#### FAN SAFETY

He said ballpark differences make it impractical to have identical protective netting at all 30 big league venues. The commissioner’s office has been discussing the issue with teams following a series of injuries to fans from foul balls this year. Owners will talk about the matter when they meet in Dallas on Nov. 18-19.

“If you go out and look at the ballparks, it becomes

“Obviously, the federal government has some significant influence on whether that’s going to take place, and there are issues that need to be solved before that can happen.”

— Rob Manfred,

MLB Commissioner on the hurdles standing in the way of playing an exhibition game in Cuba.

evident that a simple uniform — for example you’re going to net to the edge of the dugout — is not workable, given the variation in designs of the stadium,” Manfred said. “It’s going to have to be a little more complicated than that if, in fact, we move ahead.”

#### PETE ROSE

Manfred remains on track to decide Pete Rose’s application for reinstatement by the end of next month.

Then Cincinnati’s manager, Rose agreed in 1989 to a lifetime ban from baseball after an MLB investigation concluded he bet on games involving the Reds while managing and playing.

Manfred met with the career hits leader Sept. 24.

“The end of the year is my deadline,” Manfred said. “I’m not telling you that this is coming Dec. 30 or whatever. It will be done before the end of the year, let me be clear about that.”

#### SECOND BASE TAKE-OUTS

Baseball and the players union appear to be moving toward a new rule applying to takeout slides at second base. The Dodgers’ Chase Utley broke a leg of Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada breaking up a potential double play during the NL Championship Series. “There will be dialogue on

that topic with this group this week. There will be dialogue with the owners next week and we will continue our conversations with the MLBPA on this topic,” Manfred said. “We see this as a player safety issue and we want to make sure we’re in the right place without committing to whether there’s going to be a change or not.”

#### CARDINALS-ASTROS PROBE

Following the start of a federal investigation into whether St. Louis Cardinals employees hacked into a Houston Astros’ database, Manfred spoke to GMs about intellectual property and plans to have the issue on the agenda for next week’s owners’ meeting.

“It’s an issue upon which we will give advice to the individual clubs to make sure that they negotiate individual contract provisions that are protective of what they feel they need to protect,” he said. “Twenty-five years ago or 30 years ago, intellectual property in this business

was what some GM carried around in his head and he was going to take with him when he left. ... Today the business has changed.”

#### DODGERS TV

Manfred hopes to avoid a third consecutive season in which Time Warner Cable SportsNet LA, which televises most Dodgers games, is unavailable to many homes in the market. Charter Communications announced in May it plans to buy Time Warner Cable.

“I’m hopeful that there are dynamics in play beyond baseball in terms of corporate activity that may create some flexibility and hopefully we will get a resolution in time for the 2016 season,” he said.

#### ALL-STAR GAME AT WRIGLEY FIELD

Wrigley Field last hosted an All-Star Game in 1990. MLB already has announced the All-Star Game will be played in San Diego next year, followed by Miami in 2017 and Washington in 2018.

# SINGER: Travel time for league games hard to comprehend

## Continued from 1B

On Saturday afternoon I finally got to see the Mustangs with my own eyes, and I’m buying the hype.

The Mustangs thumped a Monroe Dragons team 55-14 in the first round on Saturday — the same Monroe team that lost to the No. 1 seed Central Linn just 16-6 and lost to the No. 6 seed Lost River 29-26.

Heppner succeeds because of the depth it has at the skill positions — which is incredible for a 2A school — and because of a rock

solid head coach.

Greg Grant is the coach that never stops. Grant — in his 25th year in Heppner — one of the few prep coaches I’ve seen that actively coach and yell during warm-ups before games, and the only coach that will continue to yell at his team when it’s winning by more than 40 points in the second quarter.

Looking at all of Heppner’s postseason success brought me to compare the differences between the playoff system here in Oregon to the system I grew up with back in Ohio.

Obviously, there are a lot more schools in Ohio’s athletic association, the OHSAA. In their system, schools are divided into seven divisions based on male enrollment, and then are split up into 26 total regions within the divisions with about 30 schools in each region.

But unlike in Oregon, if a school wins its conference or league the only accolade that comes with the win is a trophy and bragging rights — not a trip to the postseason. In fact, most conferences or leagues are

comprised of schools in different divisions, instead being based on distance.

The conference my alma mater is in, for instance, has schools in Division II, Division III, Division IV, and Division V, which would be the equivalent to having Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Weston-McEwen, Stanfield, Heppner, and Umatilla all in the same league.

It’s not always the most equal competition, but it is great on travel, which is something else that struck me early on here.

The furthest distance I remember traveling for a league game in high school was roughly 45 minutes, and the furthest for a playoff game was never more than two hours tops.

So I can’t imagine being a Pendleton volleyball or soccer player and having to sit on a school bus for two-plus hours for mid-week games to Hood River or The Dalles. Or I can’t imagine Weston-McEwen players sitting on a bus for four hours to travel all the way to Culver for a league game, getting back to Athena real

late, and then having to get up early and go back to school the next morning.

But enough of me rambling. The fall sports season was a pretty memorable one, filled with screw-ups, numerous wrong turns, and some pretty competitive action all the way around. I’m looking forward to what the winter sports can follow up with.

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# CBC: Weston-McEwen third with 17 selections

## Continued from 1B

team. Fitzpatrick was also honorable mention as a wide receiver and defensive back.

The Mustangs, on the other hand, will see four two-way first team players graduate this spring.

Quarterback/defensive back Kaden Clark, offensive/defensive lineman Patrick Collins, wide receiver/defensive back C.J. Kindle and wide receiver/linebacker Weston Putman made first team on offense and defense as seniors.

They’ve provided the core for units that head into the state quarterfinals ranked No. 1 and 2 in overall points this season, and will be joined in graduation by first-team linebacker Tommy Bredfield, who was a second-team selection at running back.

They won’t leave the cupboard bare, though, and Heppner will have some players returning in the trenches and on the edges to build around.

Junior wide receiver/defensive back Logan Grieb made two first teams, as did junior offensive/defensive lineman Kevin Murray. Junior defensive lineman Tim Jaca (second team), junior linebacker Kolby Currin (second team) and sophomore defensive lineman Wyatt Steagall (honorable mention) will help the retooling process as well.

Both Heppner and Stanfield are playing in the state quarterfinals this week.

Weston-McEwen finished third in the CBC this year and was third in overall all-league selections with 17. Senior offensive lineman/linebacker Devin Rhoades was a two-way first-teamer, and senior defensive lineman Vince Roff and junior defensive back Ethan Reger also were first-team honorees.

Irrigon and Culver tied for fourth with 10 selections. Irrigon senior Fredy Vera (running back) and Cougar Kroske (linebacker) made the first team while Culver’s first-team selections were juniors Jaiden Jones (running back) and Mack Little (linebacker).

Pilot Rock went winless in its 2015 campaign and had

nine overall selections with none on either first team. Junior offensive/defensive lineman Brayden Postma was a two-way second-team selection, however.

The CBC did not name a Player of the Year.

#### 2015 All-League Football Columbia Basin Conference Offense

**First Team**  
QB — Jaiden Clark, sr., Heppner  
OB — Dylan Grogan, jr., Stanfield  
RB — Fredy Vera, sr., Irrigon  
RB — Jaiden Jones, jr., Culver  
RB — Thyler Monkus, jr., Stanfield  
WR — Logan Grieb, jr., Heppner  
WR — Weston Putman, sr., Heppner  
WR — C.J. Kindle, sr., Heppner  
OL — Patrick Collins, sr., Heppner  
OL — Kevin Murray, jr., Heppner  
OL — Devin Rhoades, sr., Weston-McE-

**Second Team**  
QB — Nate Verley, sr., Irrigon  
RB — Tommy Bredfield, sr., Heppner  
RB — Vince Roff, sr., Weston-McEwen  
RB — Ethan Reger, jr., Weston-McEwen  
WR — Xander Bailer, soph., Weston-McEwen

**Honorable Mention**  
QB — Gunner McCall, sr., Pilot Rock  
OB — Brett Speed, soph., Weston-McE-

**Defense**  
DL — Justin Keeney, soph., Stanfield  
RB — Carlos Zacarias, jr., Irrigon  
RB — Chris Weinke, soph., Pilot Rock  
WR — Jason Fitzpatrick, sr., Stanfield  
WR — Hunter Melton, sr., Pilot Rock  
OL — Kolby Currin, jr., Heppner  
OL — Hunter Sater, jr., Weston-McEwen  
OL — Alyn Shaw, sr., Weston-McEwen  
OL — Trevor Shockman, jr., Stanfield  
OL — Saul Erickson, sr., Heppner  
OL — Devin Kraznavolgi, sr., Culver  
OL — Sergio Flores, sr., Weston-McEwen  
OL — Colten Seelye, sr., Irrigon

**Defensive**  
**First Team**  
DL — Patrick Collins, sr., Heppner  
DL — Kevin Murray, jr., Heppner  
DL — Vince Roff, sr., Weston-McEwen  
DL — Jared Warren, sr., Stanfield  
LB — Jose Garcia, jr., Stanfield  
LB — Weston Putman, sr., Heppner  
LB — Tommy Bredfield, sr., Heppner  
LB — Dylan Grogan, jr., Stanfield  
LB — Devin Rhoades, sr., Weston-McE-

**Second Team**  
DL — Tim Jaca, jr., Heppner  
DL — Noe Sanchez, jr., Stanfield  
DL — Cole Little, soph., Culver  
DL — Alyn Shaw, sr., Weston-McEwen  
LB — Fredy Vera, sr., Irrigon  
LB — Devin Hasher, jr., Pilot Rock  
LB — Kolby Currin, jr., Heppner  
LB — Reeve Betts, sr., Weston-McEwen  
DB — Lake Albert, sr., Weston-McEwen  
DB — Jaiden Jones, jr., Culver  
DB — Tristan Bogart, sr., Culver  
DB — Chris Weinke, soph., Pilot Rock  
DB — Nate Verley, sr., Irrigon

**Honorable Mention**  
DL — Wyatt Steagall, soph., Heppner  
DL — Colby Krogh, jr., Irrigon  
LB — Tyler Cain, sr., Weston-McEwen  
LB — Abraham Gomez, jr., Stanfield  
DB — Patrick Roe, jr., Pilot Rock  
DB — Jason Fitzpatrick, sr., Stanfield  
DB — Justin Keeney, soph., Stanfield

**Special Teams**  
**First Team**  
K — Enoel Angel, jr., Stanfield  
P — Jason Fitzpatrick, sr., Stanfield

**Second Team**  
K — Kirk Scott, fr., Weston-McEwen  
P — Devin Rhoades, sr., Weston-McEwen

**Honorable Mention**  
P — Joe Montes, sr., Culver

# DOPING: Russians won 13 golds at Sochi Games

## Continued from 1B

show “prudence” and allow Russians to compete.

Russian track and field head coach Yuri Borzakovskiy, a former Olympic 800-meter champion, will be among those meeting with Putin.

In the first move to implement a recommendation from the report, WADA revoked the accreditation of Russia’s anti-doping lab in Moscow. Hours later, lab director Grigory Rodchenkov resigned, according to the state news agency Tass.

Russia has been a track and field power for decades, but in recent years its main strengths have been in race walking, women’s middle-distance running and the field events, including world-record holder Yelena Isinbayeva in the pole vault.

At the 2013 world track and field championships in Moscow, Russia won seven gold medals — the most of any nation — and 17 total. This year in Beijing, Russia won only two gold medals

and four in all.

Until 1991, the Soviet Union enjoyed enormous international success, especially in sports such as hockey, figure skating and gymnastics. It had a huge pool of talent from its 15 republics and a wealthy training system that made its athletes walking advertisements for the purported superiority of Communism.

But in the economic chaos that followed the Soviet breakup, stadiums and other sports facilities deteriorated. Low salaries, further undermined by the 1998 collapse of the ruble, forced many athletes and coaches to compete abroad.

The post-Soviet athletic decline hit bottom at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, where Russia left with only three gold medals and the daunting task of rebuilding its team in time for the Winter Games in Sochi four years later.

The Sochi Olympics, overseen by Putin as part of a broader effort to restore national pride, cost a record

\$51 billion and yielded huge success for Russia’s athletes, who won 13 golds — their highest Winter Games haul ever — and 33 total medals.

In congratulating the medalists, Putin noted it was important for Russia to showcase not only its new modern sports facilities in Sochi but also its elite athletes, “those who are worthy of carrying the banner of its great and glorious traditions.”

“You showed that these traditions are strong and our country as before produces brilliant, strong athletes, who are able to amaze and delight our citizens, filling them with pride in their fatherland,” the president said.

Russia’s re-emergence on the global sports stage has been further boosted by winning the right to hold the 2018 World Cup, although the scandal rocking soccer’s world governing body FIFA has put that bid under renewed scrutiny.

It also has held a series of other major competitions

in recent years, including the world athletics championships in 2013 and the world swimming and diving championships this summer.

Andrei Kolesnikov, a political analyst at the Carnegie Endowment’s Moscow office, said Putin legitimizes his rule by playing up Soviet victories, not just in World War II but in the sports arenas as well.

“Maybe it was not the decision of Putin to use these medical means, but the very atmosphere in Russia, it leads to these solutions made by some sports officials. They are trying to be victorious, they must win everywhere in the fields of real war, the Cold War and in the sports fields — and the sports fields are the fields of the Cold War,” Kolesnikov said.

Kolesnikov predicted Putin would use the doping scandal to his advantage, both by standing up to what he would portray as a hostile West and by punishing someone at home to show that he was taking action.

# ADAMS: Coming off record game, Ducks face top defense

## Continued from 1B

“We don’t want to be just completely thinking about the Pac-12 North, but it’s in our minds, definitely,” Adams said. “Hopefully, we just get this win and things happen. We’ve got to win one game at a time and go from there.”

Adams transferred to Oregon for his senior season, looking to pick up where Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota left off.

It wasn’t to be. Adams broke his right index finger in the season opener against his former team, Eastern Washington. He struggled with the injury for a time before he retreated to the sidelines for games against Colorado and Washington State.

He returned three weeks ago at Washington, where the Ducks won 26-20 to kick off what is now a three-game winning streak.

Adams threw for 315 yards and four touchdowns in Oregon’s 61-55 triple-overtime thriller against Arizona

State, and then had 300 yards passing and another four touchdowns last weekend in a 44-28 win over California. His highlight reel from the latter game also includes a dramatic keeper that Adams capped by somersaulting over a defender and into the end zone.

Overall, Adams has thrown for 1,468 yards and 14 touchdowns with five interceptions in six games this season. He’s also rushed for 145 yards and two more scores.

“He was pretty much a national story before he got to Oregon,” Stanford coach David Shaw told reporters Tuesday. “He is an exciting player with a strong arm. He’s a dangerous football player. He is back to doing those things that caught everyone’s eye.”

At least for right now, Adams is most concerned about fixing those interceptions. Both of his picks against Cal came in the end zone.

“I’ve got to clean that up if we want to be a better team,” he said. “I’ve defi-

nately got to clean that up.”

Adams was helped against Cal by his offensive linemen, as well as the Ducks’ running game, which churned out 477 yards on the ground — led by Royce Freeman with 180. Overall, Oregon had a school-record 777 yards in total offense.

“Oregon’s always been known for having a ton of playmakers, so for us to get that rolling in the past couple of weeks feels great,” said junior receiver Bralon Addison, who pulled down a pair of touchdown passes from Adams in the Cal victory. “We’re going to continue to get better.”

But that’s going to be a challenge against Stanford, which ranks atop the Pac-12 for total defense, allowing opponents just under 339 yards per game and only 20 total touchdowns. Oregon may have one advantage if Adams can keep his upward trend going: Stanford’s pass defense is ranked 10th in the league, allowing just over 213 yards a game.

Stanford has won eight

straight games and will clinch the North outright with a victory over Oregon.

The Ducks are underdogs on Saturday, but the series with Stanford is marked by a couple of recent upsets. In 2012, Oregon was ranked No. 1 when Stanford and freshman quarterback Kevin Hogan visited Eugene and pulled off a 17-14 overtime victory. The Cardinal went on to win the Pac-12 championship game before beating Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl.

Stanford played spoiler again the next year, beating the then-No. 2 Ducks 26-20. The Ducks went on to lose to Arizona down the stretch and wrapped up the season in the Alamo Bowl.

Adams said he’s feeling more confident in his role since his return, and he’s also tried to be a more vocal leader.

“I feel really good; I’m very confident with the offense now. I’ve got my reads down,” he said. “All we can do is just keep it rolling, you know? One game at a time.”