

Soccer

US breezes into Gold Cup Semifinals

By RONALD BLUM
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PHILADELPHIA — Omar Gonzalez and Eric Lichaj scored late in the first half and the United States beat El Salvador 2-0 on Wednesday night in an ugly CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinal.

The Americans, who started five veterans added for the tournament's knockout phase, overcame a shaky defensive play and poor passing, advancing to a semifinal against Costa Rica on Saturday in Arlington, Texas.

Bruce Arena changed all 11 starters for the second straight game and at 7-0-5 set a record for longest unbeaten streak at the start of a U.S. coaching tenure, topping Bob Bradley's 10-0-1 in 2007. The U.S. improved to



United States' Eric Lichaj (15) reacts after kicking a goal during a CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinal soccer match against El Salvador in Philadelphia on Wednesday.

6-0 against El Salvador in the Gold Cup, also winning quarterfinals 4-0 in 2002 and 5-1 in 2013. The Americans are 17-1-5 overall against the Salvadorians, the only loss an

exhibition at San Salvador in 1992.

Aldimore, forward Clint Dempsey, midfielders Michael Bradley and Darlington Nagbe, and goal-

keeper Tim Howard were all added to the lineup.

A crowd of 31,615 at half-filled Lincoln Financial Field was evenly split with supporters of both teams.

HILLCLIMB: Flat track race added to this year's festivities

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But the main events take place on Saturday and Sunday when the professionals take their turn at mastering the 275-foot hill. Saturday features qualifying rounds from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., a 450cc pro main event at 3:30 p.m., and then a side by side X-climb at 6 p.m.

Action wraps up Sunday with the main event starting at Noon and running till approximately 2 p.m. Dillon said that there is an increase in the number of competitors that registered for this year's event, and they are expecting around 3,000 fans over the three days.

There will be free shuttles running to the hill-climb from the Pendleton Convention Center, where Bike Week festivities are localized. Tickets are \$20 and \$5 for children, but are good for all three days of the event.

On top of the hillclimb,

Dillon is also putting on a flat track motorcycle race on Friday night at the Round-Up Arena, dubbed Thunder in the Blues. It will be the first motorized race in the arena since 1940, and Dillon says that

"There really is a buzz around town about it," he said. "A lot of people are excited and some are stunned that they're letting them ride on the dirt, but it should be fun."

The races will start at 6 p.m. with gates to the Round-Up opening at 3 p.m. Like the hillclimb, there will be various classes racing, from vets (age 30-plus), women, and kids, to vintage, street-legals and the pro open classes.

Tickets for it are same as the hillclimb, with \$20 for adults and \$5 for kids.

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MARINERS: Team finishes roadtrip 5-1, returns home to host Yankees

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six," Paxton said. "That's awesome coming out of the break so we've just got to keep it going here and keep ourselves in this race."

Houston starter Charlie Morton (7-4) retired the first nine batters and the Astros led 1-0 before Jean Segura led off the fourth with a single. Gamel's first homer since June 23 came next to put Seattle up 2-1.

Segura had two hits and Robinson Cano and Mike Zunino drove in a run apiece for the Mariners, who won for the sixth time in seven games. Edwin Diaz pitched a scoreless ninth for his 18th save.

The Astros had a chance to cut into the lead in the eighth when they had runners at first and third with one out. But Nick Vincent struck out

Evan Gattis before Marc Rzepczynski fanned Carlos Beltran to end the inning.

Morton allowed six hits and four runs in 6 2/3 innings for his first loss since coming off the disabled list on July 7.

Guillermo Heredia doubled to start the sixth before Segura reached on an infield single. Then an error by first baseman Yuli Gurriel allowed Gamel to reach and load the bases with no outs.

The Mariners pushed the lead to 3-1 when Heredia scored on a groundout by Cano that left Gamel out at second. Morton was able to limit the damage when Nelson Cruz grounded into a double play to end the inning.

Zunino's RBI double with two outs in the seventh pushed the lead to 4-1 and chased Morton.

Alex Bregman singled with no outs in the third,



Seattle Mariners third baseman Kyle Seager (15) attempts to throw out Houston Astros' Jose Altuve during the third inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, July 19, 2017, in Houston.

advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt and stole third base. Houston took a 1-0 lead when he scored on a sacrifice fly by George Springer.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Mariners: OF Mitch Haniger was out for the fourth straight game after injuring his right index finger

on Saturday night. Servais had initially said that Haniger would play on Wednesday, but decided to give him an extra day to recover.

Astros: All-Star SS Carlos Correa announced in an Instagram post from his hospital bed that he had surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb on Wednesday. Correa is expected to be out 6 to 8 weeks recovering from the injury he suffered on a swing Monday night.

... Ace Dallas Keuchel, who hasn't pitched since June 2 because of a pinched nerve in his neck, will make his second rehabilitation start on Saturday, but the Astros haven't decided where it will be yet.

THEY SAID IT
Servais on Seattle's 5-1 road trip: "We talked about some things out of the break where we needed to get to

and how we were going to get there and the guys have responded."

DIG IT UP
Two days after the Astros held a fake funeral to bury Beltran's glove because he hadn't played in the field in two months, he was in the lineup in left field. The 40-year-old has played in 78 games this season, but Wednesday was just the 10th time he didn't serve as the team's designated hitter and the first since May 16 in Miami.

UP NEXT
Mariners: Felix Hernandez (5-3, 4.20 ERA) will start for Seattle in the opener of a four-game series against the Yankees on Thursday. Hernandez allowed six hits and three runs in five innings of a 4-3 win over the White Sox in his previous start.

TOUR: Germany's Marcel Kittel, winner of five stages, crashes and withdraws

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shadow, zoomed down in that group, too.

The bill, at the end, was costly for Aru.

Having started Stage 17 in second place overall, just 18 seconds behind Froome, the Astana team rider slipped back to fourth — 53 seconds behind the race leader, who is getting stronger in the last week of the three-week cycling marathon.

Uran leaptfrogged from fourth to second overall. Bardet is still third. That podium could stick all the way to Paris on Sunday, as they both trail Froome by 27 seconds.

"At this stage of the race, everyone's on their hands

and knees, let's see what happens," Froome said. "It's still all to race for."

Beating everyone to the top of the Galibier — a feat that earned him a bonus of 5,000 euros (\$5,750) from race organizers — was Tour rookie Primoz Roglic. Showing nerves of steel on the 28-kilometer (17-mile) descent to the finish at the Serre-Chevalier ski station, the former ski jumper became the first Slovenian to win a stage in the 114-year history of the Tour.

"It's unbelievable," Roglic said. "A really crazy stage."

Froome's group of Uran, Bardet and French rider Warren Barguil rolled over the line 1 minute and 13

seconds after the 27-year-old Team Lotto rider, who moved to cycling in his early twenties.

Determined not to give any ground, Froome outsprinted Bardet to the finish line, securing four bonus seconds for placing third on the stage. Uran was quicker still, beating Froome to get six bonus seconds for second place.

"It was a big day of climbing," Froome said. "My legs certainly felt a lot better than a week ago in the Pyrenees, which is a good sign."

The Team Sky leader was greeted at the finish by French President Emmanuel Macron, who followed the stage in a car with the race

director.

If he wants to catch up with the main contenders, Aru will have to strike back on Thursday in the last Alpine stage, with a mountain-top finish at the Col d'Izoard — another storied 2,000-meter (6,500-foot) pass.

After that, the last big opportunity to make up places is the race-against-the-clock time trial in Marseille on Saturday. But that discipline isn't Aru's forte — unlike Froome.

"I fought until the very last meters, I gave my all to minimize losses," Aru said. "Anyway, I don't see a big drama in today's stage. The race ends in Paris."

While Bardet's repeated

bursts of acceleration on the Galibier eventually cracked Aru, they couldn't shake off Froome. To hold onto the race leader's yellow jersey all the way to Paris, the three-time champion can ride defensively, keeping tabs on Uran and Bardet and, now to a lesser extent, on Aru.

"I did my utmost," Bardet said. "I raced to take the jersey and I came close to dropping them at the top of the Galibier. I attacked. That's the way I love to race. I have no regrets. I tried everything."

One of the most active riders on Wednesday was two-time champion Alberto Contador. Riding with the panache of his glory days, the 35-year-old Spaniard

sped away from Froome's group on the second and longest climb, the 24-kilometer (15-mile) ascent to the Col de la Croix-de-Fer. But Contador faded in the Galibier and could not stay with Roglic.

"I want people to remember me as a rider who tried things, who was courageous," Contador said.

The Tour lost Marcel Kittel, the winner of five stages this year, after he crashed. The German had been leading the Tour's green jersey competition, awarded for points collected in sprints during and at the end of stages. With his departure, Australian Michael Matthews inherits the jersey.

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

MLB				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	54	42	.563	—
Tampa Bay	51	45	.531	3
New York	48	45	.516	4½
Baltimore	45	49	.479	8
Toronto	43	51	.457	10
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	48	45	.516	—
Minnesota	48	46	.511	½
Kansas City	46	47	.495	2
Detroit	43	50	.462	5
Chicago	38	54	.413	9½
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	63	32	.663	—
Seattle	48	48	.500	15½
Los Angeles	47	50	.484	17
Texas	45	49	.479	17½
Oakland	43	52	.453	20
Wednesday's Games				
Minnesota 6, N.Y. Yankees 1				
Seattle 4, Houston 1				
Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 2				
San Francisco 5, Cleveland 4				
Baltimore 10, Texas 2				
Boston 5, Toronto 1				
L.A. Dodgers 9, Chicago White Sox 1, 8				
inings				
Kansas City 4, Detroit 3				
L.A. Angels 7, Washington 0				
Thursday's Games				
Toronto (Liriano 5-5) at Boston (Fister 0-3), 10:35 a.m.				
Texas (Harnels 4-0) at Baltimore (Miley 4-8), 4:05 p.m.				
Detroit (Fulmer 10-6) at Kansas City (Duffy 5-6), 5:15 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Severino 5-4) at Seattle (Hernandez 5-3), 7:10 p.m.				
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	57	37	.606	—
Atlanta	45	48	.484	11½
New York	42	50	.457	14
Miami	42	51	.452	14½
Philadelphia	32	61	.344	24½
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
St. Louis	52	45	.536	—
Chicago	49	45	.521	1½
Pittsburgh	47	48	.495	4
St. Louis	46	48	.489	4½
Cincinnati	40	54	.425	11
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	66	29	.695	—
Colorado	56	41	.577	11
Arizona	54	40	.574	11½
San Diego	40	54	.426	25½
San Francisco	37	59	.385	29½
Wednesday's Games				
Chicago Cubs 8, Atlanta 2				
Philadelphia 10, Miami 3				
Colorado 18, San Diego 4				
San Francisco 5, Cleveland 4				
Pittsburgh 3, Milwaukee 2, 10				
inings				
N.Y. Mets 7, St. Louis 3				
Cincinnati 4, Arizona 3, 11				
inings				
L.A. Dodgers 9, Chicago White Sox 1, 8				
inings				
L.A. Angels 7, Washington 0				
St. Louis (Lynn 8-6) at N.Y. Mets (Lugo 4-2), 9:10 a.m.				
Arizona (Walker 6-4) at Cincinnati (Castillo 1-2), 9:35 a.m.				
Milwaukee (Nelson 8-4) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 5-3), 9:35 a.m.				
Atlanta (Foltynewicz 7-5) at L.A. Dodgers (McCarthy 6-3), 7:10 p.m.				
San Diego (Chacin 8-7) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 0-3), 7:15 p.m.				
Northwest League				
North Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Vancouver	18	16	.529	—
Tri-City	17	17	.500	1
Spokane	14	20	.412	4
Everett	13	20	.394	4½
South Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Hillsboro	20	14	.588	—
Boise	19	15	.558	1
Eugene	19	14	.576	½
Salem-Keizer	15	19	.441	5
Wednesday's Games				
Hillsboro 6, Vancouver 0				
Tri-City 8, Boise 5				
Salem-Keizer 3, Spokane 2				

CONCACAF Gold Cup						
Quarterfinals						
Wednesday						
At Philadelphia						
Quarterfinal One						
Costa Rica 1, Panama 0						
Quarterfinal Two						
United States 2, El Salvador 0						
Thursday						
At Glendale, Ariz.						
Quarterfinal Three						
Mexico vs. Honduras, 4:30 p.m.						
Quarterfinal Four						
Jamaica vs. Canada, 7:30 p.m.						
MLS						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Toronto FC	11	3	6	39	36	21
Chicago	11	3	6	38	37	19
N.Y. FC	10	6	4	34	38	26
Atlanta	9	7	3	30	39	27
New York	9	8	2	29	25	26
Orlando City	8	7	5	29	22	29
Columbus	9	10	1	28	30	32
Montreal	6	6	6	24	29	30
Philadelphia	6	8	5	23	26	23
New England	5	9	5	20	29	31
D.C. United	5	12	3	18	17	35
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Sporting K.C.	8	4	8	32	24	14
FC Dallas	8	3	7	31	30	18
Houston	8	7	5	29	24	29
Vancouver	8	7	3	27	25	27
Portland	7	6	6	27	35	35
Seattle	7	7	6	27	29	31
San Jose	7	8	5	26	23	31
Los Angeles	6	9	4	22	28	33
Real Salt Lake	7	12	2	23	27	41
Minn. United	5	11	4	19	25	42
Colorado	6	11	1	19	19	27
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.						
Wednesday's Games						
Montreal 2, Philadelphia 1						

Everett at Eugene, late finish				
Thursday's Games				
Vancouver at Salem-Keizer, 6:35 p.m.				
Boise at Everett, 7:05 p.m.				
Spokane at Hillsboro, 7:05 p.m.				
Eugene at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.				
WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	12	9	.571	—
Connecticut	12	9	.571	—
New York	10	9	.526	1
Atlanta	9	11	.450	2½
Indiana	8	12	.400	3½
Chicago	7	13	.350	4½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	16	2	.889	—
Los Angeles	14	5	.737	2½
Phoenix	11	9	.550	6
Dallas	10	12	.455	8
Seattle	9	11	.450	8
San Antonio	2	18	.100	15