

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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MLB

Mariners fall to Yankees



New York Yankees' Brett Gardner, right, and Seattle Mariners catcher Mike Zunino watch Gardner's home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game Thursday, July 20, 2017, in Seattle.

AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Golf

An All-American start to British Open

Spieth, Koepka, Kuchar lead after first round

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

SOUTHPORT, England — The wind off the Irish Sea pushed away the rain clouds and bathed Royal Birkdale in sunshine, Stars and Stripes.

The British Open began Thursday with an All-American flavor.

Jordan Spieth, chomping away on gum as he watched one putt after another pour into the center of the cup, worked some bunker magic of his own late in the round to keep his card filled only with birdies and pars for a

See GOLF/2B

Seattle starts 10-game home stand with loss to fall below .500

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Luis Severino pitched around trouble to throw seven shutout innings, Brett Gardner hit a solo home run off Felix Hernandez and the New York Yankees beat the Seattle Mariners 4-1 on Thursday night.

Severino (6-4) was overpowering when he needed to be, striking out six and getting his fastball to flash triple-digits on the stadium scoreboard even in the seventh inning. He allowed eight hits, but was outstanding when in trouble. Severino pitched out of jams in the first, second and most notably the fourth inning when Seattle had runners at the corners with no outs and was unable to score.

Gardner took advantage of

the one mistake by Hernandez (5-4), driving a 2-1 pitch into the right-field seats with one out in the sixth. Other than that, Hernandez was as good as he's been in 2017, striking out a season-high nine and pitching at least seven innings for the second time.

Aaron Judge added a broken-bat RBI single in the eighth inning. It was just his fourth hit in 29 at-bats since the All-Star break. The Yankees added a pair of runs in the ninth with two outs on Robinson Cano's throwing error, allowing Didi Gregorius and Todd Frazier to score.

Three of New York's four runs were unearned.

It was a vintage performance by Hernandez, all the way down



to the lack of run support — a staple of his career with the Mariners. Hernandez has always pitched well against New York, and he was successful staying on the edges with his fastball, getting the Yankees to chase offspeed pitches out of the zone.

But he paid for the one mistake he made. Hernandez left a fastball in the middle of the plate, and Gardner smacked his 16th home run of the season.

The Mariners left eight runners on base in the first five innings, including failing to score in the fourth inning with runners on first and third and no outs. Mitch Haniger popped out on the infield and Jarrod Dyson's shallow flyball failed to get Kyle Seager in

from third. Mike Zunino walked to load the bases, but Severino got a groundout from Jean Segura to end the inning.

Cano had an RBI double in the ninth.

ROTATION CHANGE

Seattle will put right-hander Yovani Gallardo back into the starting rotation in the series finale on Sunday against the Yankees. Gallardo had a 0.79 ERA working out of the bullpen. He was 3-7 with a 6.30 ERA in 14 starts prior. The Mariners optioned Sam Gaviglio to Triple-A Tacoma on Thursday and recalled reliever Max Povse.

UP NEXT

Yankees: CC Sabathia (8-3) is tied for the team lead in victories.

Mariners: Andrew Moore (1-1) is looking to bounce back from giving up three home runs in his last start against the White Sox.

Men's College Basketball

Oregon sets sights on grad transfer guard

Ducks looking to replenish offense

By STEVE MIMS
The Register-Guard

EUGENE — Oregon is pursuing another graduate transfer.

ESPN's Jeff Goodman reported that the Ducks are interested in Randy Onwuasor, who led the Big Sky Conference with 23.6 points per game last season at Southern Utah. The 6-foot-3 guard also led the Thunderbirds with 6.6 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 1.5 steals per game.

Onwuasor entered his name in the NBA Draft, but announced in May that he would return for his senior year of eligibility at Southern Utah. He was given his release to transfer for his senior season earlier this month.

Goodman said Gonzaga and South Carolina are among the schools interested in Onwuasor along with the Ducks.

Onwuasor would be the second high-scoring guard

See DUCKS/2B



Onwuasor

Tour de France

Frenchman Barguil triumphs on Stage 18

Froome retains yellow jersey

By JOHN LEICESTER & SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

COL D'IZOARD, France — French rider Warren Barguil triumphed on the barren slopes of the fearsome Col d'Izoard climb in the Alps, winning his second stage of the 104th Tour de France while Chris Froome successfully defended his overall race lead on Thursday, putting him within touching distance of a fourth Tour crown.

On the last day of climbing in the Alps, Froome lost a handful of seconds to French rider Romain Bardet, who moved up to second in the overall standings, relegating Rigoberto Uran of Colombia to third.



AP Photo/Peter Dejong

Stage winner France's Warren Barguil, wearing the best climber's dotted jersey, climbs Izoard pass with Colombia's Carlos Betancur during the eighteenth stage of the Tour de France over 111.5 miles from Briançon to Izoard pass, France on Thursday.

But Froome still leads Bardet by 23 seconds, a margin that the French rider looks unlikely to close before the finish Sunday in Paris. The last opportunity is in a time trial Saturday, but Froome excels at that

discipline.

"I gave it all, I thought I was going to suffocate as I crossed the line," Bardet said. "I have no regrets, I did everything I could."

Froome was relieved to put the Alps behind him. The

mountains can crack even the best riders, and with them over with, there remain no real obstacles to stop Froome clinching a third straight title. His first was in 2013.

While not huge, his lead is sufficient to mean that he doesn't have to take unnecessary risks on the twisting and technical time-trial course in Marseille. Friday's stage out of the Alps through Provence isn't tough enough to provoke a big shake-up in the standings, and Sunday's ride into Paris is largely professional.

"I'm happy that I went through the Alps without any major problem," Froome said. "I normally find the Alps more difficult."

Barguil set off in search of the Stage 18 victory when there were still six kilometers (four miles) left to climb to the top of the Izoard pass, a moonscape of scree and

See TOUR/2B

Sports shorts

Ole Miss football coach resigns

(AP) — Ole Miss football coach Hugh Freeze resigned Thursday after university officials found a "pattern of personal misconduct" that they found unacceptable.

Freeze's resignation brings a stunning end to a five-year tenure that saw a Sugar Bowl victory, but also a wide-ranging NCAA investigation into rules violations. His ultimate downfall came after school officials investigated Freeze's phone records and found misconduct.

The Rebels had a quick rise under Freeze, recruiting at a high level and reaching an apex with a Sugar Bowl victory over Oklahoma State following the 2015 season.

But an NCAA investigation — alleging 21 charges of academic, booster, and recruiting misconduct — has overshadowed much of that success, especially over the past year.



Freeze

"He becomes perhaps the most versatile reliever we have now in some ways. He has the physical ability to go more than one inning ... he has the physical stuff to get strikeouts in a critical situation either with runners on base or just getting through toward the end of the game."

— Jerry Dipoto

Seattle Mariners GM on David Phelps, a reliever Seattle acquired from Miami on Thursday. Phelps is 2-4 with a 3.45 ERA in 44 games and 47 innings this season.

Pendleton Little League all-stars starts regional play today

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — For the second straight year, the Pendleton 11/12-year-old softball all-stars are looking to secure a spot in the Little League Softball World Series in Portland.

After winning the state tournament on July 13, Pendleton now starts play in the Little League Softball West Regional tournament today in San Bernardino, California. As Team Oregon, it starts off with pool play against Southern California today at 9 a.m. and then plays again on Monday against Arizona at 5 p.m.

Bracket play then starts on Tuesday with the championship held on July 23 at 6 p.m.

In the 2016 tournament, the Pendleton team won three games overall, including a 2-1 record in pool play before losing to Montana 8-0 in the quarterfinals.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1968 — Arnold Palmer becomes the first PGA golfer to earn \$1 million over his career despite losing by one stroke to Julius Boros in the PGA championship.

1985 — The greatest money winner in horse racing history, John Henry, is retired. The 10-year-old, who won 39 races in 83 starts, earned \$6,597,947 in total purses.

2013 — Phil Mickelson wins the British Open with a spectacular finish to win his first claret jug. Mickelson birdies four of the last six holes for a 5-under 66 to match the best round of the tournament.

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