

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

MLB

## Red Sox shut out Mariners to avoid sweep

### Boston rookie makes impact in MLB debut

By **TIM BOOTH**  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — When Chris Sale woke up Wednesday, he was unaware the Red Sox were on a four-game losing streak.

“I actually fell asleep before the end of it. I woke up this morning and heard the news,” Sale said of Boston’s 13-inning loss the previous night.

Sale was brilliant, pitching seven innings of three-hit ball in a 4-0 win over



the Seattle Mariners that featured a home run by 20-year-old Rafael Devers, who became the youngest Boston player to hit a home run in more than 50 years.

Sale headed back to the team hotel early on Tuesday night to be rested for a day game. He didn’t know about Seattle’s two-run rally in the 13th inning, shortly after midnight.

About 12 hours later, the

Red Sox got exactly what they needed from their ace to avoid being swept. He struck out 11, the 14th time this season he reached double digits. Sale allowed doubles to Jean Segura and Guillermo Heredia, and a broken-bat single to Ben Gamel, but none of the three to reach base via hit ever advanced.

“It’s deception, it’s angle. He does a lot of things well,” Gamel said.

Sale (13-4) has struck out at least nine batters in each of his 12 road starts this

season, the longest streak dating to 1913. He’s won five of his last six decisions and became the first AL pitcher with 13 wins.

In two starts on Boston’s trip, Sale allowed seven hits in 13 innings and struck out 20.

“We’re watching one of the better years ever pitched by a major league pitcher in the American League,” Boston manager John Farrell said. “We’re fortunate it’s in our uniform.”

A day after his major league debut, Devers led off the third inning by sending

See **MARINERS/2B**



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

**Boston Red Sox's Rafael Devers hits a single in the seventh inning of a baseball game as Seattle Mariners catcher Carlos Ruiz looks on, Wednesday in Seattle.**

Soccer

## US brings Gold Cup home



**United States' Jordan Morris (8) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal against Jamaica during the second half of the Gold Cup final soccer match in Santa Clara, Calif., Wednesday, July 26, 2017.**

AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

Jordan Morris scores game-winning goal in 88th minute to beat Jamaica

**United States players celebrate after beating Jamaica 2-1 in the Gold Cup final soccer match in Santa Clara, Calif., Wednesday, July 26, 2017.**

AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez



By **JANIE MCCAULEY**  
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Jordan Morris scored a tiebreaking goal in the 88th minute, and the United States beat Jamaica 2-1 Wednesday night for its sixth CONCACAF Gold Cup title and first since 2013.

Jozy Altidore’s goal on a 28-yard free kick in the 45th minute beat backup goalkeeper Dwayne Miller after Jamaica captain Andre Blake left early with



a hand injury.

Je-Vaughn Watson tied the score when he got away from Morris for a 4-yard volley off Kemar Lawrence’s 50th-minute corner kick.

See **GOLD CUP/2B**

College Football

## Trojans, Huskies picked as preseason favorites

Oregon picked fourth, OSU fifth in North

By **GREG BEACHAM**  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Southern California is the preseason pick to win the Pac-12 in a poll of football media, and defending champion Washington is favored to win the North Division.

The conference announced the results Wednesday before its preseason media availabilities in Hollywood.

USC got 28 of 52 overall first-place votes, topping the Huskies’ 22. Both schools were clear favorites in their respective divisions, getting 49 of the 52 votes for the top spot.

The Trojans won their final nine games last season behind returning quarterback Sam Darnold, culminating in a thrilling Rose Bowl victory over Penn State. Although USC must replace playmakers at several key positions, coach Clay Helton returns for his second full season with the school’s usual roster loaded with

See **PREDICTIONS/2B**

College Football

## Pac-12 will test shorter halftime, reduced TV timeouts this season

By **DAN GREENSPAN**  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Pac-12 will shorten halftime and reduce the number of commercial breaks during its non-conference schedule this season as part of a trial

program to reduce the length of its football games.

Halftime will be 15 minutes long, cut down from the usual 20-minute break. The number of commercial breaks will be reduced and they will be shorter in length, Pac-12 Commissioner Larry

Scott said Wednesday.

Scott announced the initiative as the Pac-12 kicked off its media days in Hollywood. The experiment is intended to shorten ballooning game times in an era of up-tempo offenses running more plays and the increased scoring that

comes with it.

“Just because metrics show robust ratings and attendance doesn’t mean we shouldn’t be experimenting and piloting with formats that will keep the sport attractive,” Scott said. “It’s incumbent on us to look at the presentation

of the sport and make sure the pace of play is moving as much as possible and without changing the fundamentals of the game.”

Scott did not completely dismiss potential rule changes in the future to address the length of games,

saying that the upcoming experiment was part of a larger, more comprehensive review.

Scott noted that Pac-12 games have averaged nearly 3 hours and 30 minutes, more than 30 minutes longer than

See **PAC-12/2B**

Sports shorts

### Marlins score 22 runs to set team record in win over Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Marlins leadoff hitter Dee Gordon homered on the first pitch thrown by Yu Darvish, and things got no better for the Texas Rangers as Miami set a franchise record for runs in a 22-10 victory Wednesday.

Christian Yelich hit a solo homer in the first for the Marlins, and Marcell Ozuna’s three-run triple in the fourth made it 9-2. J.T. Realmuto and Giancarlo Stanton later went deep, Stanton’s 468-foot drive in the eighth being his majors-leading 33rd homer.

Adrian Beltre homered and had two doubles, giving the Rangers third baseman 2,996 career hits before he was ejected from the game while waiting on deck to bat again in the eighth.

Second-base umpire Gerry Davis motioned for Beltre to get closer to the on-deck circle, Beltre instead dragged circle closer to him.



“Just because you forgot your keys on a day, that doesn’t mean that’s the canary in the coal mine. At the same time, you have to remember that you did play in the NFL and it is a real possibility. I’m just monitoring it and I’m not worried about it right now.”

— **Joe Thomas**  
Cleveland Browns offensive tackle said his recent memory loss isn’t alarming to him yet, but the recent studies of football players and links to brain trauma is something he’s watching closely.

### Tri-City Dust Devils place four on Northwest League All-Star team

PASCO, Wash. — The Tri-City Dust Devils will be represented by four of its players at the Northwest League / Pioneer League All-Star game next week.

Pitchers Jose Galindo, Henry Henry and Emmanuel Ramirez, plus outfielder Luis Asuncion were selected for the game, which will be played Aug. 1 in Hillsboro.

Asuncion has a .282 batting average in 36 games this season with a team-high three home runs and 18 RBI.

Ramirez leads Tri-City with 48 1/3 innings pitched and touts a 2-1 record with a 2.61 ERA. Henry is 1-3 with a 2.83 ERA in 28 2/3 innings over six starts, and Galindo has not allowed a run in 14 1/3 innings this season spanning 10 games as a reliever.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1986** — Greg Lemond becomes the first American to win the Tour de France. LeMond’s teammate, Bernard Hinault of France, finishes second.

**1987** — The Salt Lake Trappers, an independent baseball team in the Pioneer League, have their record 29-game winning streak snapped with a 7-5 loss to Billings.

**2015** — The Arizona Cardinals hire Jen Welter to coach inside linebackers through their upcoming training camp and preseason. Welter is believed to be the first woman to hold a coaching position of any kind in the NFL.

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