

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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1B



Minnesota Twins players Ehre Adrianza front, and Ervin Santana back, along with other members of the team watch the solar eclipse before a game between the Twins and Chicago White Sox Monday in Chicago.

AP Photo/Paul Beatty

Baseball

Fans flock to ballparks to see eclipse

Minor league teams hold game-day viewing parties

By GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Baseball fans in more than a half-dozen cities from Oregon to South Carolina crowded into minor league

ballparks Monday to watch the solar eclipse at game-day viewing parties.

The Lincoln Salt Dogs wore special black-and-white jerseys and stopped their game just before 1 p.m. to watch the eclipse darken the sky. Spectators erupted in applause at 1:02 p.m. as the moon crawled in front of the sun until the whole sky looked like a late-evening sunset. The air turned chilly and went still.

“It made me all teary-eyed,” said Robyn Mason, who watched with her husband, Greg, from a grassy embankment near the third base outfield. “It was just so momentous. Just really cool — and very pretty.”

Other teams hosting events included the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes in Oregon, the Idaho Falls Chukars, the Bowling Green Hot Rods in Kentucky, Tennessee’s Nashville Sounds and the

Greenville Drive, Columbia Fireflies and Charleston RiverDogs, all in South Carolina.

The Volcanoes’ game against the Hillsboro Hops started late because the Hops got stuck in traffic. The game stopped briefly in the first inning as fans and players paused to watch the eclipse. Many players donned disposable protective glasses

See ECLIPSE/2B

NFL

O-line still a dilemma for Seattle

Fant’s injury throws wrench into lineup

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — It wouldn’t be the preseason without uncertainty about how the Seattle Seahawks offensive line will look come Week 1.

In what has become a regular occurrence the past few seasons, the line has been thrown into flux again with the season-ending knee injury suffered by expected starting left tackle George Fant in last Friday’s preseason game against Minnesota. Fant suffered a torn ACL and some MCL damage in his right knee and will undergo surgery soon.

The loss of Fant completely alters an offensive line that was on the verge of being mostly settled for the final two weeks of the preseason. Fant and Luke Joeckel were set on the left side with Justin Britt at center and Germain Ifedi the expected starter at right tackle. The only competition appeared to be at right guard between Oday Aboushi and Mark Glowinski, with Ethan Pocic and Rees Odhiambo serving as backups across the line.

“We’re moving. We’ve got to keep rolling,” coach Pete Carroll said Monday.

Carroll chose not to go into specifics, but indicated that Odhiambo will likely be the first option. The second-year

See SEAHAWKS/2B

MLB

Mariners slide past Braves



Seattle Mariners Yonder Alonso (10) avoids the tag of Atlanta Braves catcher Kurt Suzuki (24) at home to score in the fourth inning of a baseball game in Atlanta.

AP Photo/Todd Kirkland

Alonso drives in three to help Seattle keep pace in Wild Card race

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Andrew Albers is making up for lost time.

After going 1,463 days between big league victories, he now has two wins in less than a week.

“I try not to count that high,” Albers quipped after working into the sixth inning to lead the Seattle Mariners past the Atlanta Braves

6-5 on Monday night. “I knew it had been a while.”

The 31-year-old left-hander sounded more excited about the first hit and RBI of his career — in his first big league at-bat, a bouncer off the pitching hand of Atlanta’s Mike Foltynewicz that wound up being an infield hit.



After admiring the ball in his locker, Albers (2-0) quickly pointed out he also has two sacrifice bunts, leaving him with a career average

of 1.000.

“I better sit on that one as long as I can,” he said. “It’s only gonna go down from there.”

Albers beat his former organi-

zation, having spent most of the season at the Braves’ Triple-A club. He went 12-3 but never got a call to the big leagues.

Instead, Albers was dealt to the Mariners for cash on Aug. 11. He was called up by Seattle to make a start four days later, working six strong innings in a 3-1 win over Baltimore.

This time, he surrendered six
See MARINERS/2B

NFL

Trevor Siemian outduels Paxton Lynch to win Broncos QB job again

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Vance Joseph was admittedly enamored of the idea of a towering, chuck-it-or-tuck-it quarterback with first-round pedigree and a lightning bolt for a right arm leading the Denver Broncos in 2017.

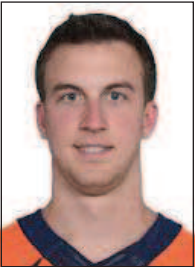
Even more captivating for the rookie head coach was the notion of his egghead seventh-rounder with the sneaky fastball and penchant for making the right decisions

calling the signals.

So, it’s Trevor Siemian and not Paxton Lynch who will start for the Broncos.

Joseph made the announcement Monday following a five-month audition that represented the biggest position battle in the NFL this offseason.

Joseph suggested Lynch may still represent the future in Denver, but with a team



Siemian

that’s just 18 months removed from a championship parade and so good on defense, he had to think about today, not tomorrow.

So, Siemian is his guy. Just as he was Gary Kubiak’s choice a year ago.

“It’s all about performance, not potential,” Joseph said. “And Trevor is ready to lead our football team. We’ve

got two receivers that are All-Pro caliber, we’ve got a great backfield, we’ve fixed the offensive line. So, we need a guy who can operate at a high level all the time.”

The book on Lynch coming out of Memphis’ spread offense was that he needed multiple years of seasoning at the pro level and Joseph said what’s holding Lynch back is “probably experience.”

“It’s tough to play quarterback in this league. A lot goes into it and it’s not simply

about how tall you are or your arm strength, how fast you run,” Joseph said.

Joseph demurred when asked if he felt Lynch was right where he should be on his developmental arc.

“I can’t say that. But he is a guy that again has rare talent and he works at it. He does work at it,” Joseph said. “Some guys need more time. He’s a young player. So in a year or two, he might be ready to take over the reins. But right now he’s not.”

Siemian beat out veteran

Mark Sanchez last summer then went 8-6, throwing for 3,400 yards with 18 touchdowns and 10 interceptions in 2016 despite playing three-fourths of the year with a sprained left shoulder that required offseason surgery.

Siemian found himself fighting for his job again after Kubiak retired from coaching in January and was replaced by Joseph, who brought in Mike McCoy to author the Broncos’ new playbook.

“Honestly, I think you
See BRONCOS/2B

Sports shorts

Azarenka withdraws from U.S. Open amid child custody battle

NEW YORK (AP) — Two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka withdrew from the U.S. Open on Monday because she was unable to resolve a custody dispute with her infant son’s father.

The 28-year-old star from Belarus gave birth to her first child in December and she returned to the tour in June.

“I am sadly unable to compete in this year’s U.S. Open due to my ongoing family situation that I am working through,” Azarenka said in a statement.

“The way things stand now is that the only way I can play in the U.S. Open this year is if I leave Leo behind in California,” Azarenka wrote, “which I’m not willing to do.”

Azarenka has not played since Wimbledon, and the former No. 1 player is now ranked 204th.



Azarenka

“Football is a meritocracy, and our team has worked hard throughout this offseason and training camp. Our coaches appreciate and respect that effort. The team deserves a day away from the fields and meetings, and an opportunity to spend some time together away from the facility.”

— John Harbaugh

The Baltimore Ravens head coach canceled Monday’s practice and instead took the team on a trip to Washington D.C. where they toured the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery.

NFL, Goodell working on five-year contract extension

(AP) — Commissioner Roger Goodell is on track to maintain his prominent place at the table for the next round of collective bargaining between NFL owners and players, a process that’s sure to be contentious.

The league is working on a five-year contract extension for Goodell, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press. Sports Business Journal first reported the contract negotiations.

Goodell’s contract is up after the 2019 season. The new deal would go through 2024. The current collective bargaining agreement expires after the 2020 season.

Goodell replaced Paul Tagliabue as commissioner in 2006. He earned just over \$31 million for the 2015 season, down from about \$34 million in 2014.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1989 — Nolan Ryan of the Texas Rangers becomes the first pitcher to strike out 5,000 career batters in a 2-0 loss to the Oakland Athletics. Ryan fans Rickey Henderson swinging on a 3-2, 96 mph fastball for No. 5,000.

2005 — Maria Sharapova is the 15th player and the first Russian to be No. 1 since the WTA tour began its computer rankings in 1975.

2007 — The Texas Rangers becomes the first team in 110 years to score 30 runs in a game, setting an American League record in a 30-3 rout of the Baltimore Orioles in the first game of a doubleheader.

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