

MLB

Familiar foes Diamondbacks, Rockies vie in NL wild card

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Diamondbacks and Rockies share a spring training facility and played each other 19 times this season.

They know each other very well. Now comes game No. 20 on Wednesday night, the biggest one of them all, an NL wild-card matchup with Arizona’s Zack Greinke facing Colorado’s young Jon Gray.

“There’s no secrets here,” Rockies manager Bud Black said. “We know what they like to do. They know our players. ... They know our tendencies, they know our hitters’ tendencies, they know our pitchers’ tendencies. And we know theirs.”

It’s a matchup of under-the-radar franchises in the NL West that had turnaround seasons under first-year managers. The Rockies are in the playoffs for the first time since 2009. The Diamondbacks haven’t been here since 2011. The game is sold out at 48,686-seat Chase Field.

“A couple of guys were wondering why the fans weren’t here early in the season and when were they going to start showing up,” Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said Tuesday. “And I told them you keep playing the same type of baseball, they’re going to come out and support us.

“So we want to earn that. We know that they’re out there, and I can’t wait to what tomorrow brings as far as the crowd, the noise and



Colorado Rockies
(87-75)



Arizona Diamondbacks
(93-69)

• **Wed., 5 p.m. (TV: TBS)**

• **at Chase Field**

the energy.”

Here are some things to consider when the Rockies meet the Diamondbacks:

WILD ATMOSPHERE: Diamondbacks slugger J.D. Martinez relishes the idea of playing in the energized atmosphere of the winner-take-all contest, but said the players can’t get too caught up in the scene.

“It’s going to be awesome, it’s going to be fun,” he said. “But at the same time you have to control it. I think that’s going to be the hardest thing for everyone, both sides. It’s just being able to control that environment and being able to control your adrenaline, your emotions and your feelings, because all that stuff’s going to be on a high.”

GREINKE’S ARM: Greinke (17-7, 3.20 ERA) will be making his 10th career playoff start. His postseason record is 3-3 with a 3.55 ERA. He is 2-1 in five starts against Colorado with a 3.41 ERA in 34 1-3 innings.

The Diamondbacks signed Greinke to a six-year, \$206.5 million contract before the start of last season. This is just the situation



AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin

Arizona Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo, third from left, talks with his players during practice at Chase Field as the team gets ready for a National League wild-card game Monday in Phoenix.

where they expect him to earn some of that money.

“I feel good going into it,” he said. “I feel pretty prepared. All my pitches feel good, so I’ll be doing as good as I can do. We’ll see how it is, but it will be as good as I can do.”

YOUNG ROCKY: The Rockies counter with the 25-year-old Gray (10-4, 3.67), who said “it’s very cool” to go against Greinke.

“The guy’s obviously got a great track record,” Gray said. “He’s been a really good pitcher for years. It’s very exciting for me. He’s a guy I used to watch on TV so it’s very, very surreal.”

Gray is 2-1 with a 3.50 ERA in

three starts against the Diamondbacks. He didn’t allow more than three runs in any of the starts.

MARTINEZ SIZZLING, GOLDSCHMIDT SLUMPING: Dealing with Martinez could be quite a chore. Acquired from Detroit before the trade deadline, Martinez has hit .302 with 29 home runs and 65 RBIs in 62 games with Arizona. In September, he hit .404 with 16 home runs and 36 RBIs in 24 games.

But Paul Goldschmidt comes in with just the opposite performance down the stretch. The perennial All-Star and MVP candidate had a miserable September at the plate

Mariners to handle Felix Hernandez differently going forward

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — The days of Felix Hernandez using his overpowering fastball and deceptive change-up to dominate hitters for seven, eight or nine innings will become rarer in the future.

The Seattle Mariners believe shorter stints on the mound and potentially more rest between starts will be the way to ensure Hernandez’s long-term availability.

“I think that is going to be something to manage with Felix,” general manager Jerry Dipoto said Tuesday. “I don’t know how we’re going to get him through

33 starts without managing it in a little different way than we managed it this year. Whether he’s starting less frequently, whether that be monitoring pitch counts in a different way than we have before, whether it’s part of his offseason training preparation and in season routines, we’ll do those things, whatever we have to do to make sure that he is in the best position he can be.”

Hernandez is coming off an injury-filled 2017 season during which he made a



Hernandez

career-low 16 starts due to a series of injuries, going 6-5 with a 4.36 ERA.

Hernandez had two different stints on the disabled list and missed a total of 92 games. He was sidelined by inflammation in his right shoulder in late April, returned in late June and was back on the disabled list in early August with bursitis in the same shoulder.

Hernandez had just two starts all season where he lasted at least seven innings. The Mariners believe this will be a trend with Hernandez

going forward. Dipoto said he doesn’t believe there is a specific fix the Mariners can make to suddenly make Hernandez and his right arm more durable. Hernandez will turn 32 next April and he has thrown more than 2,500 innings in his career.

“I don’t know that he can try and stay healthier. Once you know you have these issues, it’s just a matter of maintenance. The issues that Felix has incurred, they’re happening under his skin. It’s not something that you can work harder and make ligaments stronger. You can’t lose weight and create more stability in an elbow joint. That’s not realistic,” Dipoto

said.

“What we’re dealing with is trying to best manage and create enough depth behind Felix so that when he goes out and takes his start that we can find a way to monitor his outings in such a way that he is out there as frequently as he can be and when he steps aside and inevitably needs a little bit of time down, we have somebody who can step in. But we can’t place expectations that we’re magically going to fix something and he’ll throw 180 innings. That’s not realistic.”

While much of the conversation Tuesday surrounded Hernandez’s health, the Mariners appear

ready to take a different approach with their pitchers next season. Seattle used a major league-record 40 pitchers in 2017, including 17 starters in part because of injuries and overuse. Even for the ace of their staff — James Paxton — that could mean shorter outings in the hopes of lessening concerns of overuse.

“What we’re not going to do is we’re not going to count on, and this is not singularly pointed toward James or Felix, we are not going to plan on innings pitched from starting pitchers the way we’ve counted before. That’s just not the way the game works,” Dipoto said.

Basketball

Minnesota looking for revenge against Los Angeles in another Game 5

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Nneka Ogumike has a bandage under her right eye to mask the stitches she took from an elbow in the paint. Sylvia Fowles’ right eye is red and bloodshot from the battles being waged on the glass.

The WNBA Finals rematch between the Los Angeles Sparks and Minnesota Lynx has pushed both teams to their limits, and all that remains is one last game in this season.

Winner take all. Again. “It wouldn’t be the finals without a scratch here and there,” Ogumike said. “I enjoy it. It’s a great opportunity to be on this main stage competing with the best. I’m not going to back down. You can’t. It



Minnesota's Rebekkah Brunson, right, pulls down a rebound against Los Angeles' Nneka Ogumike during Game 4 of the WNBA Finals on Sunday.

AP Photo/Alex Gallardo

This is what we always talk about. College, high school, pro, this is what we live for as athletes.”

The Lynx were on the verge of elimination in Game 4 on Sunday, but responded by pounding the Sparks on the glass and winning 80-69 to send the series back to Minnesota. Fowles, the league MVP, went for 22 points and 14 rebounds to help the Lynx to a 48-28 rebounding advantage.

At this point, after so many games and so many high-pressure moments, there are no more tricks to pull, no more surprises to unveil. “It’s no secrets. There’s not a play we’re going to call tomorrow that they won’t know. There’s not a defensive scheme that we won’t know,” Augustus said. “Tomorrow is just focusing on details and just heart. Heart and guts.”

The Lynx, who are looking for their fourth championship in seven years, will need to get rugged power forward Rebekkah Brunson going to have a chance against the athletic Sparks. In Minnesota’s two victories in the series, Brunson has averaged 15.0 points and 8.0

rebounds. In their two losses, she has just 4.0 points and 2.5 boards.

“We can look at it as a disappointment that we’re playing a Game 5 or we can look at it as an opportunity,” Sparks star Candace Parker said. “I think if you poll anyone around the league asking if you had one game and an opportunity to win a championship, would you take it? I’m sure everybody would take that.”

The Lynx pulled more than 19,000 fans into Target Center for Game 5 last year. Williams Arena, on the campus of the University of Minnesota, has a capacity below 15,000. But in the old “Barn,” as it’s called, there is no place for the noise to go. And if history is any indication, this one is going to come right down to the closing seconds.

“It speaks to the rivalry,” Ogumike said. “I think that’s pretty spectacular. That speaks to the evolution of the game, the evolution of this competition that we have between each other. I would hope everybody enjoys watching it as much as we love playing in it.”

SCOREBOARD

Local slate		COLLEGE FOOTBALL		Baseball		Football		Basketball	
PREP FOOTBALL		MLB		NFL		WNBA Finals		WNBA Finals	
Thursday Prairie View vs. Arlington (at Condon), 7 p.m.		Postseason Schedule		Thursday's Games		Los Angeles 2, Minnesota 2		Los Angeles 2, Minnesota 2	
Friday Mountain View at Pendleton, 7 p.m. Hermiston at Ridgeview, 7 p.m. Ontario at Mac-Hi, 7 p.m. Riverside at Umatilla, 7 p.m. Vale at Irrigon, 7 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Stanfield, 7 p.m. Powder Valley at Echo, 7 p.m.		WILD CARD Tuesday: New York 8, Minnesota 4 Wednesday, Oct. 4: Colorado (Gray 10-4) at Arizona (Greinke 17-7), 5:08 p.m. (TBS)		Sunday's Games		Sept. 24: Los Angeles 85, Minnesota 84		Sept. 24: Los Angeles 85, Minnesota 84	
PREP VOLLEYBALL		DIVISION SERIES		Arizona at Philadelphia, 10 a.m.		Sept. 26: Minnesota 70, Los Angeles 68		Sept. 26: Minnesota 70, Los Angeles 68	
Thursday Pendleton at La Grande, 6 p.m. Riverside at Irrigon, 6 p.m. Culver at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m. Heppner at Pilot Rock, 5 p.m. Helix at Cove, 5 p.m. Nixyaawii at Powder Valley, 5 p.m.		(Best-of-5; wif necessary)		Carolina at Detroit, 10 a.m.		Sept. 29: Los Angeles 75, Minnesota 64		Sept. 29: Los Angeles 75, Minnesota 64	
Friday Nyxsa at Stanfield, 1 p.m. Union at Stanfield, Noon Powder Valley at Echo, 4 p.m. Sherman at Condon/Wheeler, 4 p.m.		American League		San Francisco at Indianapolis, 10 a.m.		Oct. 1: Minnesota 80, Los Angeles 69		Wednesday: Los Angeles at Minnesota, 5 p.m. (ESPN)	
Saturday Heppner vs. St. Paul (at Sherman), 10 a.m. Nixyaawii at Wallowa, 11 a.m. Irrigon at Stanfield, Noon Weston-McEwen vs. St. Paul (at Sherman), Noon Echo at Joseph, 1 p.m. Helix at Wallowa, 1 p.m. Ione at Mitchell/Spray, 1 p.m. Ontario at Mac-Hi, 1:30 p.m. Helix at Joseph, 3 p.m. Weston-McEwen vs. Kennedy (at Sherman), 4 p.m.		Boston vs. Houston		N.Y. Jets at Cleveland, 10 a.m.		Preseason Schedule		NBA	
PREP CROSS COUNTRY		New York vs. Cleveland		Tennessee at Miami, 10 a.m.		Thursday's Games		Brooklyn 115, New York 107	
Thursday Heppner, Helix, Weston-McEwen, Stanfield at Mustang Invitational (Heppner), 4 p.m.		Thursday, Oct. 5: New York at Cleveland, 4:38 p.m. (FS1 or MLB)		L.A. Chargers at N.Y. Giants, 10 a.m.		Chicago 113, New Orleans 109		Houston 104, Oklahoma City 97	
Friday Hermiston, Pendleton, Stanfield at Richland (WA) Invite, TBD Mac-Hi, Umatilla at La Grande Invite, TBD		Friday, Oct. 6: New York at Cleveland, 2:08 p.m. (FS1 or MLB)		Baltimore at Oakland, 1:05 p.m.		Phoenix 114, Portland 112		Wednesday's Games	
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL		Sunday, Oct. 8: Cleveland at New York, TBD (FS1 or MLB)		Seattle at L.A. Rams, 1:05 p.m.		Tuesday's Game		Toronto vs. L.A. Clippers, 4 p.m.	
Wednesday Blue Mountain at Walla Walla, 6 p.m.		x-Monday, Oct. 9: Cleveland at New York, TBD (FS1 or MLB)		Green Bay at Dallas, 1:25 p.m.		Minnesota United 3, Atlanta United FC 2		Atlanta at Cleveland, 4 p.m.	
Friday Blue Mountain at North Idaho, 2 p.m. EOU at Southern Oregon, 4:30 p.m.		x-Wednesday, Oct. 11: Boston at Houston, TBD (FS1 or MLB)		Kansas City at Houston, 5:30 p.m.		Saturday's Games		Charlotte at Detroit, 4 p.m.	
Saturday Spokane at Blue Mountain, 6 p.m. Oregon Tech at Eastern Oregon, 7 p.m.		National League		Monday's Games		Vancouver at New York, 2 p.m.		Memphis at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.	
Sunday Southern Oregon at Eastern Oregon, 1 p.m.		Chicago vs. Washington		Minnesota at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.		Sporting K.C. at Minnesota United, 5 p.m.		Indiana at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.	
COLLEGE WOMEN'S SOCCER		Friday, Oct. 6: Chicago at Washington, 4:31 p.m. (TBS)		Top 25 Schedule		FC Dallas at Colorado, 6 p.m.		Chicago at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.	
Friday Blue Mountain at North Idaho, 2 p.m. EOU at Southern Oregon, 4:30 p.m.		Saturday, Oct. 7: Chicago at Washington, 2:38 p.m. (TBS)		Thursday		NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.		Denver vs. L.A. Lakers, 7 p.m.	
Saturday Blue Mountain at Spokane, Noon Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, Noon		Monday, Oct. 9: Washington at Chicago, TBD (TBS)		Friday		Tuesday's Game		Los Angeles 7, 17, 8, 29, 41, 62, 9, 18, 5, 29, 29, 47	
PREP BOYS SOCCER		x-Tuesday, Oct. 10: Washington at Chicago, TBD (TBS)		Mac-Hi at The Dalles, 4 p.m.		Wednesday's Games		Colorado 9, 18, 5, 29, 29, 47	
Wednesday Irrigon at Hermiston (JV), 4:30 p.m.		COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER		Umatilla at Nyssa, 3 p.m.		Thursday's Games		Minnesota United 3, Atlanta United FC 2	
Thursday Mac-Hi at The Dalles, 4 p.m.		Friday Blue Mountain at North Idaho, 4:15 p.m. EOU at Southern Oregon, 7 p.m.		Friday Blue Mountain at Spokane, 2:15 p.m.		Saturday's Games		Minnesota United 3, Atlanta United FC 2	
Friday Umatilla at Nyssa, 3 p.m.		Saturday Blue Mountain at Oregon Tech, 2 p.m. Blue Mountain at Spokane, 2:15 p.m.		Sunday Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, 2 p.m. Blue Mountain at Spokane, 2:15 p.m.		Vancouver at New York, 2 p.m.		Atlanta United FC 2, Atlanta United FC 2	