

College Football

Debate continues over pro and cons of late Pac-12 kickoffs

Associated Press

Washington coach Chris Petersen has moved on from the debate over Pac-12 After Dark, those late-night televised conference games that end in the wee hours on the East Coast.

But it's worth noting he did bring up a topic that's been debated on the West Coast for some time. Some say those late TV games are a great showcase for the Pac-12, others say it's tough on the players.

Some, like Petersen, wonder if it's actually hurting teams to start so late when it comes to exposure. And, by extension, many wonder if it impacts things like postseason awards: After a long day of Saturday football games, are Heisman voters staying up late enough to see the league's stars like Washington State's Luke Falk or Stanford's

Bryce Love?

Last week, Petersen addressed a series of late starts for the Huskies — who have not started a game before 5 p.m. local time this season — and apologized to fans.

"It hurts us tremendously in terms of national exposure. No one wants to watch our game on the East Coast that late, and we all know it," he said.

The issue was amplified in a not-so-good way over the weekend when Kirk Herbstreit said on ESPN's College Game Day that Petersen "should be thanking ESPN for actually having a relationship."

Petersen tried putting the mini-controversy behind him this week. The Huskies play Arizona State on Saturday night, and yes, it's a late kickoff.

"I don't have any more thoughts on this. I spoke

my piece," Petersen said. "I'm on to Arizona State and that's really how it is."

The reality is that the league has a 12-year, \$3 billion contract with ESPN and FOX. Good West Coast teams, like No. 5 Washington, are going to get those late national time slots because there's no other competition for them.

Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said member schools have to accept late kickoffs as the trade-off for increased exposure and revenue. He was at California's game at Washington, which started at 7:50 p.m.

"The night games rate better than the day games," Scott said. "So what tends to happen is, the better you do the more attractive you are for TV and the more you're going to get scheduled in the night."

USC coach Clay Helton said Tuesday that he accepts

the entertainment/business aspect of it all.

"The whole thing about college football is we are TV-driven," he said. "As a coach, I've never worried about things I can't control. There's sometimes we're going to play at 12 o'clock, and sometimes we're going to play at 7:30. You just prepare your team for those different situations."

It's not a new issue. The Pac-12 CEO Group made up of presidents and chancellors from its member schools approved a recommendation last year to modify the league's agreement with ESPN and FOX to reduce the number of Pac-12 Network night games with a start of 7 p.m. or later.

"The Pac-12 has some of the most loyal fans in college athletics and we appreciate our television partners working with us on this

important issue for fans," Oregon athletic director Rob Mullens said in a statement at the time. "The increased exposure and revenue from our contracts with ESPN and FOX Sports have been instrumental to our success, but we continue to work hard to minimize as much as possible the negative impact late start times have on our fans who travel great distances to see our teams in person."

Stanford coach David Shaw has been critical of late starts because of the impact on his players. He said last week that "I think it gets difficult if that's most of what you play."

"Most of us are zombies on Sunday morning because we get home at 2 o'clock in the morning. Some of the road trips, guys are getting home at 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning. The players — for a lot of teams it's their day

off — it's hard for them to get back to their studies because they're sleeping in half the day," Shaw said.

Stanford hosts Oregon this weekend with a kickoff time of 8 p.m.

Washington State coach Mike Leach doesn't have a problem with late kickoffs, such as Friday's 7:30 p.m. start for the No. 8 Cougars at California.

A night owl, Leach is more upset by morning kickoffs. He said 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. is the ideal time to start a football game.

Leach also disputes the notion that night games hurt West Coast teams hoping to get into the College Football Playoff or get their players national exposure when it comes to the biggest awards.

"I've been to the East Coast," he said. "The bars there don't close till 4 a.m. because they're planning to stay up late."

NLDS: Game 5 on Thursday in Washington, D.C.

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when he woke up Wednesday and told Baker he wanted the ball. That was all Baker needed to hear.

"I could see the focus and determination in his eyes, you know what I mean, when he came in the office and we talked to him," the manager said. "You know, he's a man of few words, but the words he said, you know, gave us every indication that he was ready."

Standing tall as clouds of mist rolled through Wrigley Field, Strasburg struck out

12, allowed three hits and walked two. The No. 1 overall pick in the 2009 draft has 22 Ks in 14 innings in the series, allowing only a pair of unearned runs in the sixth in the opener.

"I like to think that any game that I pitch is the most important game," Strasburg said. "That's just how I tried to go into Game 4, and now we get a chance for a Game 5."

Chicago wasted a gutsy performance from Jake Arrieta and solid relief by Game 2 starter Jon Lester in its first home playoff loss

since Game 4 of the World Series last year. NL MVP Kris Bryant struck out four times, and the defending champs went 0 for 6 with runners in scoring position.

Arrieta walked five in four innings in his return from a hamstring injury, but limited Washington to an unearned run and two hits. Lester got the Cubs all the way to the eighth, picking off Ryan Zimmerman before departing after Daniel Murphy's two-out single.

But Chicago's bullpen faltered from there. Carl Edwards Jr. walked two in

a row and threw ball one to Taylor before he was replaced by Wade Davis. Taylor then drove a 1-1 pitch into the basket overhanging the brick wall in right field for his first career homer in the playoffs.

"I was kind of numb, just running around the bases," Taylor said. "Honestly, I didn't think it was going to get out the way the wind was blowing in."

Ryan Madson worked the eighth and Doolittle finished the three-hitter, giving the NL East champions a chance to avenge years of playoff heartache.



AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh
Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg throws during the first inning of Game 4 of baseball's National League Division Series against the Chicago Cubs, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2017, in Chicago.

ALDS: Kluber struggles for Indians again

Continued from 1B

fifth run scoring when Todd Frazier raced home on right fielder Jay Bruce's throwing error.

Gardner's gritty at-bat was symbolic of these Yankees. They wouldn't give in.

"We can win a lot of different ways," Gardner said.

When Austin Jackson was called out on strikes to end it, the Yankees rushed to the mound to celebrate with a wide-eyed Chapman. An elated Girardi hugged his coaches.

The Yankees became the 10th team to overcome a 2-0 deficit to win a best-of-five playoff series. New York also did it in 2001, rallying to beat Oakland — a series remembered for Jeter's backhand flip to home plate.

Gregorius, who took over at shortstop following Jeter's

retirement after the 2014 season, hit a solo homer in the first off Kluber and added a two-run shot in the third off Cleveland's ace, who didn't look like himself during either start in this series.

One win shy of a Series title last year, the Indians had only one goal in mind in 2017.

They came up short again, and have now lost six consecutive games with a chance to clinch a postseason series. The skid dates to last year's World Series, when they squandered a 3-1 lead to the Cubs.

Cleveland is the first team in history to blow a two-game series lead in consecutive post-seasons.

Everything was set up for the Indians: Kluber on the mound, Game 5 at home, sensational setup man Andrew Miller rested.

The Yankees, though, wouldn't be denied. They

battled back from a 3-0 deficit in the first inning of their wild-card game against Minnesota and then had to overcome a crushing loss in Game 2, when Girardi's decisions led to him being booed at Yankee Stadium.

But these Yankees displayed pinstriped pride.

They're moving on.

KLUBER KLOBBERED
Kluber was one of baseball's most consistent pitchers all season, winning 18 games.

However, October was cruel to the right-hander. He allowed nine runs, including four homers, over 6 1/3 innings in two postseason starts, hardly what he or the Indians expected.

SLUMPS

The Indians batted .171 as a team with All-Stars Francisco Lindor (2 for 18) and Jose Ramirez (2 for 20) unable to snap out of funks.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP FOOTBALL
Thursday
Perrydale at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.
Dufur at Arlington, 7 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL
Thursday
Weston-McEwen at Heppner, 5 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Lone, 5 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Joseph, 5 p.m.
Culver at Stanfield, 5:30 p.m.
The Dalles at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.
Hermiston at Hood River Valley, 6:30 p.m.

PREP BOYS SOCCER
Thursday
Pendleton at Hood River Valley, 4 p.m.
Hermiston at The Dalles, 4:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER
Thursday
Mac-Hi at Irrigon, 4:30 p.m.
Hood River Valley at Pendleton, 6 p.m.
The Dalles at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY
Thursday
Heppner, Helix, Stanfield, Weston-McEwen at Helix Stubblebuser, TBD

Baseball
MLB POSTSEASON
DIVISION SERIES
American League
Houston 3, Boston 1
Oct. 5: Houston 8, Boston 2

Oct. 6: Houston 8, Boston 2
Oct. 8: Boston 10, Houston 3
Monday: Houston 5, Boston 4
New York 3, Cleveland 2
Oct. 5: Cleveland 4, New York 0
Oct. 6: Cleveland 9, New York 8, 13
innings

Oct. 8: New York 1, Cleveland 0
Monday: New York 7, Cleveland 3
Wednesday: New York 5, Cleveland 2

National League
Chicago 2, Washington 2
Oct. 6: Chicago 3, Washington 0
Oct. 7: Washington 6, Chicago 3
Monday: Chicago 2, Washington 1
Wednesday: Washington 5, Chicago 0

x-Thursday, Oct. 12: Chicago at Washington, 2:38 p.m. (TBS)
Los Angeles 3, Arizona 0
Oct. 6: Los Angeles 9, Arizona 5
Oct. 7: Los Angeles 8, Arizona 5
Monday: Los Angeles 3, Arizona 1

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
(Best-of-7; x if necessary)
American League
Houston vs. New York
Friday: New York at Houston (Keuchel 14-5) (FS1), 5:08 p.m.
Saturday: New York at Houston (Verlander 15-8) (Fox), 1:08 p.m.

National League
Los Angeles vs. Chicago-Washington winner
Saturday, Oct. 14: Chicago-Washington winner at Los Angeles (TBS), 5:08 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 15: Chicago-Washington winner at Los Angeles, (TBS), 4:38 p.m.

Football

NFL
Week 6
Thursday's Game
Philadelphia at Carolina, 5:25 p.m.

Soccer
MLS
Wednesday's Game
Houston 2, Sporting Kansas City 1

Hockey
NHL
Wednesday's Games
New Jersey 6, Toronto 3
Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2
Colorado 6, Boston 3
Anaheim 3, N.Y. Islanders 2
Calgary at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Florida, 4:30 p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.

Basketball
NBA Preseason
Wednesday's Games
Boston 108, Charlotte 100
Miami 117, Washington 115
Philadelphia 133, Brooklyn 114
Houston 101, Memphis 89
Portland 113, Phoenix 104

Thursday's Games
Dallas vs. Atlanta at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 7:30

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50's naugahyde sofa and chair-excellent condition, Coca-Cola sign and thermometer, huge collection of crumbers, beer signs and mugs, rusty tools and outdoor decor, bird houses and feeders, great old lanterns, numerous brass blow-torches, 20's icebox, huge whale bone, record albums, black iron lamp post, snow plow for Honda 4-Wheeler

This sale is being held in our back barn.

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Milton-Freewater
Saturday 9am-3pm
Sunday 10am-3pm

Credit/debit cards and cash. No checks please. No early sales.

360 Garage Sales

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Lots of Christmas, camping, fishing, golf clubs, gardening, clothing, athletic wear.... lots of misc.
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