

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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MLB PLAYOFFS

Yankees complete comeback



New York Yankees' Didi Gregorius points to the dugout after hitting a two-run home run off Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Corey Kluber during the third inning of Game 5 of a baseball American League Division Series, Wednesday in Cleveland.

AP Photo/David Dermer

New York erases two-games-to-none deficit to advance to ALCS

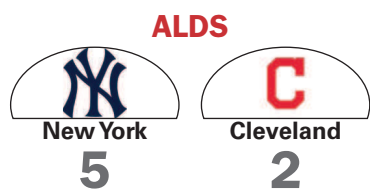
By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — These young Yankees were unshaken, resilient and as tough as the city they represent.

The baby Bronx Bombers have grown up fast.

Didi Gregorius, following in the October footprints left by Derek Jeter, homered twice off Corey Kluber as New York beat the Cleveland Indians 5-2 in Game 5 on Wednesday night to complete its comeback from a 2-0 deficit in the Division Series and dethrone the AL champions.

The bend-but-don't-break Yankees, way ahead of schedule, staved off elimination for the fourth time in this postseason and advanced to play the Houston



Astros in the AL Championship Series starting Friday night at Minute Maid Park.

With a blend of young stars and older veterans coming up big, the Yankees rocked Cleveland and bailed out manager Joe Girardi, who failed to challenge a key call in a Game 2 loss that threatened to sabotage New York's season.

"These guys had my back and they fought and fought," Girardi said. "They beat a really good team. What those guys did for me, I'll never forget it."

The Yankees went 2-5 against the AL West champion Astros, led by 5-foot-6 dynamo and MVP candidate Jose Altuve. But none of that matters now to this group of New Yorkers.

After winning twice at home, and after Girardi said he "screwed up" and felt horrible about it, the Yankees — with little offensive help from rookie star Aaron Judge — came into Progressive Field and finished off the Indians, who won 102 games during the regular season, ripped off a historic 22-game winning streak and were favored to get back to the World Series after losing in seven games a year ago to the Chicago Cubs.

Cleveland's Series drought turns 70 next year — baseball's longest dry spell.

"Nobody wanted the season to

be over," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "It doesn't wind down, it comes to a crashing halt. It's disappointing. We felt good about ourselves. We made it harder to win, especially in the last two games."

The Indians closed to 3-2 in the fifth against starter CC Sabathia before David Robertson pitched 2 2/3 hitless innings for the win. Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman, who faced Cleveland in last year's spine-tingling World Series and signed an \$86 million free agent contract in December, worked two innings for the save.

Chapman went to the mound with a three-run lead in the ninth after Brett Gardner battled Cody Allen for 12 pitches before hitting an RBI single, with New York's

See ALDS/3B

Nationals force Game 5

Strasburg dominates with 7 shutout innings

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Stephen Strasburg gave Washington everything he had, and it was more than enough.

So much for all those questions about heart and character.

Strasburg shook off an illness and pitched seven dominant innings, Michael A. Taylor hit a late grand slam and the Nationals beat the Chicago Cubs 5-0 on Wednesday to send their NL Division Series to a decisive Game 5.

"I just focused on one pitch at a time and going as long as I could," Strasburg said.

Moments after Sean Doolittle closed out Strasburg's first career playoff win, the focus shifted to the final game of the series in Washington on Thursday night. Kyle Hendricks starts for the World Series champion Cubs after throwing seven sharp innings in a 3-0 victory over Strasburg in Game 1.

Washington manager Dusty Baker was non-committal when asked about his starter, with Gio Gonzalez and Tanner Roark the most likely candidates.

"You know, whoever it is, I hope they pitch like Stras did today," Baker said.

No kidding. Strasburg got sick after his terrific performance in the playoff opener on Friday, and the Nationals had planned to go with Roark even after a persistent rain washed out Game 4 on Tuesday. That led to a flurry of comments and criticism about whether the ace had the right stuff to pitch in big moments.

But Strasburg felt better

See NLDS/3B

Bucks in must-win mindset

Pendleton needs wins with season winding down

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — With just three weeks remaining in the regular season, there is no more room for error for the Pendleton Buckaroos.

Pendleton (3-3 overall, 2-2 5A Special District 1) is clinging to the fourth-and-final playoff spot in the district with a one-game lead on Hood River Valley, Summit and Redmond with three games left to play. That means Pendleton needs to

PENDLETON

Football



• Friday, 7 p.m.
• at Hood River

win out to guarantee its first postseason berth since 2014, and it starts on Friday night in Hood River against a slumping Eagles team.

"I made it real clear this week to the kids that it's a must-win each week if we want to continue our season," Pendleton coach Erik Davis said at practice on Tuesday. "The biggest thing is the kids have to understand every play is

important and we have to be focused on every play. The one thing about this team is they do want to win and they do want to make the playoffs, they have expectations that they will go to the playoffs and I have no doubt we'll be ready to go this Friday."

Hood River (2-3, 1-3) is an improved squad over the winless team from a year ago that Pendleton beat 33-23 at the Round-Up, but the Eagles are in a bit of a slump. After winning its first two games in blowout fashion over St. Helens and Ridgeview, the Eagles have lost three straight, most recently 30-20 on the road at Redmond last week.

See BUCKS/2B

Bulldogs ready for Lava Bears

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Seven weeks into the season, Hermiston holds on to third place in the Special District 1

but only by a slim one-game margin. As the Bulldogs continue to fight for one of the four qualifying spots to reach playoffs,

they now have to go through the league's top team. Well,

one of them. Bend will make the trip north to Kennison Field on Friday unbeaten in league



Staff photo by E. J. Harris

Hermiston's Garron Anderson wraps up Hood River's Greyson Losee on a kickoff return in the Bulldogs' win against Hood River on Sept. 29 in Hermiston.

play. On the season, the Lava Bears (5-1 overall, 4-0 SD1) have only one loss —

See BULLDOGS/2B

Sports shorts

Red Sox fire manager John Farrell

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Red Sox fired manager John Farrell on Wednesday after the team's second straight loss in the AL Division Series.

The Red Sox announced the move less than 48 hours after they were eliminated from the playoffs with a 5-4 loss to the Houston Astros. Farrell's contract had been scheduled to run through the 2018 season.

Farrell managed the team to its eighth World Series title in his first season. But he found himself under a harsh spotlight each of the last two seasons after exits in the division series of the postseason.

Farrell went 432-378 over five seasons with Boston. He managed Toronto for two seasons before that and went 154-170.

Farrell began his coaching career with Boston as a pitching coach from 2007-2010. He was part of the team's 2007 World Series title.



Farrell

"He kind of set the path for me and my success and without him none of this would be possible. I probably wouldn't be talking to (the media) and you probably wouldn't be looking at me as the leader of this team. He put me in the position to be successful and I can't thank him enough for that."

— Ryan Nall

Oregon State Beavers running back speaking to the media on now-former head coach Gary Andersen, who parted ways with the school after two-plus seasons.

Goodell joins Dolphins for visit with police, community

MIAMI (AP) — Miami Dolphins receiver Kenny Stills says he was pleasantly surprised to be joined by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell for visits with police and youngsters in an effort to build better community relations.

The collaboration came from the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality founded by Dolphins owner Stephen Ross. Goodell and the Dolphins visited two schools and the North Miami Police Department.

Stills and a few teammates have staged protests during the national anthem. In a memo to team owners, Goodell reiterated the league's belief that everyone should stand for the anthem and outlined plans to highlight efforts of players trying to bring attention to the social issues behind the game-day protests.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1986 — Walter Payton becomes the first NFL player to accumulate 20,000 all-purpose yards in the Chicago Bears' 20-7 victory over the Houston Oilers. Payton has 76 yards rushing and 30 yards receiving for a career total of 20,045.

2009 — Brent Seabrook scores 26 seconds into overtime and the Chicago Blackhawks matched the biggest comeback in NHL history, rallying from a five-goal deficit to beat the Calgary Flames 6-5. Chicago fell behind 5-0 in the first period before overtaking the Flames.

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