

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

Astros force Game 7 with Yankees

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Justin Verlander stayed perfect with the Houston Astros when they couldn't afford anything else.

The ace right-hander pitched seven shutout innings and Jose Altuve homered and drove in three runs during a 7-1 victory over the New York Yankees on Friday night that extended the AL Championship Series to a decisive Game 7.

Acquired in an Aug. 31 trade, Verlander has won all nine of his outings for the Astros. And with his new club facing playoff elimination in Game 6 against the Yankees, he delivered again.

Game 7 is Saturday night in Houston, with the winner advancing to the World Series against the NL champion Los Angeles Dodgers.

CC Sabathia is scheduled to start for New York against Charlie Morton in a rematch of Game 3, won 8-1 by the Yankees. The home team has taken every game in the series.

"It's going to be a crazy night," Altuve said. "I know both teams are going to go out there and leave everything they have."

After striking out 13 for a complete-game victory in Game 2, Verlander threw another gem. The 2011 AL MVP and Cy Young Award winner scattered five hits and struck out eight to improve to 9-0 with 67 strikeouts since agreeing to a trade from Detroit that was completed only seconds before the midnight deadline for postseason eligibility.

For the Astros, it was Just-in time. "I literally love Justin Verlander," Altuve said. "The way he goes out there makes me feel like I have to out there and play the same way he's doing it."

George Springer helped Verlander out of a jam in the seventh, leaping to make a catch at the center-field wall that robbed Todd Frazier of extra bases with two on and the Astros up 3-0.

"I thought homer," Verlander said. "That was obviously one of the big turning moments in the game."

Brian McCann's RBI ground-rule double in the fifth ended an 0-for-20 slump before Altuve snapped an 0-for-12 skid with a two-run single later in the inning. Altuve hit his fourth homer of the postseason when he connected on a solo shot off David Robertson with no outs in the eighth.



Game 7: Saturday, 5 p.m., FS1



Hermiston's Andrew James (8) leaps over Redmond's John Crivellone (33) while running the ball in the Bulldogs' 62-14 win against the Panthers on Friday in Hermiston. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

BULLDOGS DOMINATE

Hermiston's home finale biggest win all season

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — For a handful of Bulldogs, Friday night's game had a special meaning. For one Bulldog in particular, the 62-14 win over Redmond on senior night was a little bit sweeter.

After Hermiston participated in its tradition of walking the length of Kennison Field arm-in-arm one last time with the Class of 2018, the friends and family of Joey Gutierrez were waiting near the end zone. Minutes later, the small crowd broke out signing "Happy Birthday" as Gutierrez celebrated turning 18.

"It's just all a perfect moment," he said. "It's what you dream of."

Gutierrez was one of five Bulldogs to score, and it was his touchdown that brought the running clock rule into effect. If a team is leading by 45 or more points, the clock does not stop except for touchdowns and time-outs. Gutierrez's two-yard rush up Hermiston up 55-7 half way through the third quarter, but by that point the Bulldogs' fate was sealed.

The first 20 seconds of Hermiston's home finale was a good indicator of what was to come. Junior Youbani Razon opened the game with a 82-yard punt return, and put fellow junior Andrew James and the rest of Hermiston's offense in the red zone for their first



MORE INSIDE: Pendleton wins on the road at Bend Prep Roundup, 3B

See DAWGS/3B



Hermiston's Jonathan Hinkle rushes the ball chased by Redmond's Cooper Browning in the Bulldogs' 62-14 win against the Panthers on Friday in Hermiston. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Mustangs take back league title from defending champs



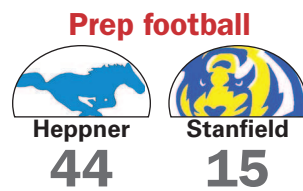
Coby Dougherty, of Heppner, gains yardage during Friday's game against the Tigers in Stanfield. Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Heppner beats Stanfield at home, earns playoff spot

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

STANFIELD — After a one year absence, the Columbia Basin Conference championship is back in the possession of the Heppner Mustangs.

Heppner wore out and beat down the defending CBC champion Stanfield Tigers on a cold and windy October evening for a 44-15 victory. It's the fourth straight victory for the Mustangs on



the season, and one that officially clinched the school's 21st consecutive state playoff berth.

"It's surreal," Heppner senior Coby Dougherty said after the game, smiling ear-to-ear. "From the beginning of the season we were doubted quite a bit, and coming into this game and being here and having a playoff spot, this is just amazing."

"I'm really happy for my kids," Heppner coach Greg Grant added. "They've gone through a lot, they've worked really hard, and I've been hard on them because I know what they're capable of and they're really starting to come together and they showed what they're capable of tonight at times."

The Mustangs established their presence at the line of the scrimmage early and often on both sides of the ball and took control of the game. Heppner ran for 303 yards in the game led by Dougherty with 128 yards on 20 carries with three total touchdowns. Heppner picked up 20 first downs, held the ball for 24

minutes of game time and was a combined 6 of 10 on third and fourth downs, thanks to a big effort from its offensive line.

"The guys on the line of scrimmage really did dig in and work hard," Grant said. "I thought everybody blocked well tonight, I really did. I thought we all blocked for each other, with each other and that's a beauty of football."

Quarterback Jayden Wilson has utilized his legs more in the last few games for the Mustangs and he continued that trend Friday as he ran for 115 yards and

See MUSTANGS/3B

Sports shorts

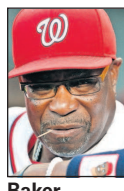
Baker out as Nationals manager

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dusty Baker's time as the manager of the Washington Nationals is over after two seasons, two NL East titles and zero playoff series victories.

The Nationals announced Friday that they would not be bringing Baker back. His two-year deal with the club is expiring.

The moves come the week after Washington was eliminated from its NL Division Series against the Chicago Cubs with a 9-8 loss at home in Game 5. The Nationals also were bounced from the postseason in the NLDS round in 2016 also with a Game 5 loss at home by one run, that time against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Despite a host of injuries to key players, the Nationals went 97-65 this season, finishing 20 games out in front in their division. In 2016, Baker's first in Washington, the club was 95-67.



Baker

"By no means was I trying to injure or take out Aaron Rodgers. He's one of, if not the best, player in this league. I'm not a dirty player. I don't play dirty. We don't preach that around here."

— Anthony Barr

Minnesota Vikings linebacker who was fined \$9,115 for head-butting Green Bay's Davante Adams but faced no punishment for a tackle that broke the collarbone of QB Rodgers.

Lynch suspended one game for unsportsmanlike conduct

NEW YORK (AP) — Oakland running back Marshawn Lynch was suspended for one game without pay by the NFL on Friday for shoving a game official during the Raiders' victory over Kansas City on Thursday night.

Lynch was ejected from the game after he shoved line judge Julian Mapp.

The scuffle started when Oakland quarterback Derek Carr was hit late on a run by Kansas City's Marcus Peters midway through the second quarter. Raiders offensive linemen Kelechi Osemele and Donald Penn immediately confronted Peters, and Lynch sprinted onto the field from the bench to join the fray. Mapp tried to break up the fight, but Lynch pushed him and grabbed his jersey. Lynch also got a personal foul.



Lynch

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1975 — Carlton Fisk breaks up a thrilling contest with a homer in the 12th inning to give the Boston Red Sox a 7-6 victory over the Cincinnati Reds and force a seventh game in the World Series.

2007 — Rob Bironas kicks an NFL-record eighth field goal, the last a 29-yarder with no time left to give Tennessee a 38-36 win over Houston. Bironas adds two extra points to set the NFL record for most points by a kicker, with 26.

2012 — Tamika Catchings scores 25 points to help the Indiana Fever win their first WNBA title with a victory over the Minnesota Lynx.

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