

DODGERS: Kershaw 3-2 against Astros in career

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times in October.

He hung tough in Washington last season in the deciding Game 5 of the NL Division Series, earning his only big league save.

He threw six sharp innings last week in the clincher at Wrigley Field to dethrone the Cubs in the NL Championship Series. That made him 2-0 with a 3.63 ERA in three postseason starts this year, although he was tagged for four home runs in a win over Arizona.

But a truly signature moment, that's still missing. His opponent in the World Series opener, Astros lefty Dallas Keuchel, already has a couple.

Keuchel won the AL wild-card game at Yankee Stadium two years ago with six shutout innings. He won the opener of this year's ALCS, tossing seven brilliant innings vs. the visiting Yankees.

Kershaw, as always, is eager to get going.

"There's always butterflies," he said before Monday's workout at Dodger Stadium. "I think this time is when the butterflies and anxiousness is more

so. Once you throw the first pitch it all goes away, at least for me."

As for soaking in the atmosphere, that's not his style. Not right now.

"I think I'm just going to try to win tomorrow and I'll let it sink all in when we win. And if we don't do that, I'll let it sink in when we lose," he said.

Kershaw is 3-2 against the Astros, dating to when they were a National League team. Houston star Jose Altuve is 6 for 15 lifetime off a pitcher known for his sharp slider and pinpoint fastball.

"He's got every weapon you would fear," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "He's got some hardware on his shelf at home."

At 29, Kershaw could walk away after this Series and head straight to Cooperstown. He's 144-64 with a 2.36 ERA overall after going 18-4 with a 2.31 ERA this year.

"All the individual stuff is great, but at the end of the day I just want to win a World Series," he said last week, adding with a smile, "If we win, I might retire, so I might just call it a career."

ASTROS: Progression sped up under Hinch in 2015

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in 2015 we got to taste it a little bit, 2016 we had some disappointment, 2017 we're going to the World Series."

An example of just how terrible that 2013 team was came on the night they dropped their 100th game. The 10-0 defeat by the Cincinnati Reds featured numerous lowlights from the "Lastros." The first came when starter Jordan Lyles badly overthrew first base for a two-base error. In the bottom of the first inning, Jonathan Villar singled, but was thrown out trying to stretch it into a double. Simply being thrown out for a baserunning error was pretty routine on this terrible team, but the way Villar was thrown out was so humiliating that it went viral and even made it on NBC's "Today" show the next morning.

Villar slid into second base, but Brandon Phillips already had the ball before he began the slide. The always flamboyant Phillips reached backward between his legs to apply the tag as Villar crashed head-first into Phillips' backside, a moment many still refer to as the "butt tag."

The Astros began to

slowly improve in 2014 and ended their 100-loss streak by going 70-92 in the last season under manager Bo Porter. Houston surprised most everyone when the team went 86-76 in 2015 in the first year under Hinch to reach the postseason for the first time since 2005. Those upstart Astros were led Keuchel's Cy Young Award-winning season and a stellar debut by 2012 top pick Carlos Correa, which earned him rookie of the year honors. That team downed the Yankees in the AL Wild Card game before losing to eventual champion Kansas City in the Division Series.

Expectations were high entering the 2016 season, but a 7-17 start, numerous injuries and a tough year by Keuchel left them just short of reaching the playoffs and determined to bounce back this year.

They did just that, opening this season 36-16 to race out to such big lead in the AL West that no one had a chance of catching them. They finished with 101 wins and their first division title since 2001 to return to the postseason. Though the Astros added plenty of pieces in the last four seasons as they moved

from baseball's basement to the top of the heap, the four players who endured that disastrous 2013 season have all played important roles in this year's success.

Gonzalez had his finest season, hitting .303 with 23 homers and 90 RBIs — all career highs — and becoming an everyday player after filling the utility role for years. Keuchel went 14-5 with a 2.90 ERA to rebound after going 9-12 with a 4.55 ERA in the follow-up to his Cy Young season. Peacock was perhaps the biggest surprise of the group, winning a career-best 13 games and finishing with a 3.00 ERA to steady the rotation when injuries piled up midseason.

However, none of their contributions come close to what Altuve did for the team in the regular season and continued to provide as the calendar turned to October. And he may appreciate this more than anybody after playing on those "Lastros" teams.

"I'm coming from a team that lost 100 games in a row three years, three straight years," he said. "We made the playoffs in 2015, we didn't make it last year and after last year we were a little uncomfortable because

we were watching the playoff games from home and we were like, 'OK, we're good enough to be in the playoffs.' We showed up this year, we did it again, and I'm really happy and excited."

He's an MVP front-runner this season after hitting a career-high .346 with 24 homers and 81 RBIs. Altuve has followed that up by hitting .400 this postseason with a major league-leading 16 hits and five homers to lead the Astros to the World Series for the first time since they were swept by the White Sox in 2005.

"He's the best hitter on the planet," Correa said.

His performance came as no surprise to anyone who has kept up with the Astros over the past few years. Altuve has won the AL batting title in three of the past four seasons and has piled up more than 200 hits in four consecutive years.

"There's no doubt that when he has good games, it's hard to beat the Astros," Hinch said.

And now he and the Astros will get a chance to prove that when they meet the Los Angeles Dodgers in the World Series starting on Tuesday night.

PREP ROUNDUP: Mac-Hi boys soccer finishes off perfect record in league play

Continued from 1B

Saturday: the Weston-McEwen and Pilot Rock.

The pair opened the tournament facing each other, just days after their last meeting. Earlier in the week, the TigerScots were swept by the Rockets and this time, although they were able to win a set, fell again to the Rockets 3-1.

"We just didn't play well enough," Weston-McEwen coach Shawn White said. "We had a great week of practice and we just didn't get it done on the court."

"Our girls came and offensively attacked the entire match," Pilot Rock coach Elaine Howland

added. "Our serving was spot on, defensively we were in the right place at the right time."

Oates led the Rockets with 10 kills in the match while Rigby and Grace Austin had six. Oates also tallied 29 digs.

Even though Weston-McEwen didn't end its season on a high note, the TigerScots kept things close and made Pilot Rock work for its win. The first two sets went to the Rockets, 19-25 and 23-25. But the Tiger-Scots came back to win their only set of the day, 25-18 and force a fourth. Pilot Rock squeaked by 25-21 to cement its win.

Leading Weston-McEwen was junior Bryce Thul, who

finished with 12 digs, 18 assists, and four kills. Senior Alyssa Finifrock had a team-high 11 kills. Both freshman Jesse Manning and Emma Olson had two aces. Senior Chelsea Quesampts led the team with 13 digs.

BOYS SOCCER

MAC-HI 7, BAKER 3 — At Baker City, the Mac-Hi Pioneers finished off a perfect season in Greater Oregon League play with a 7-3 victory over the Baker Bulldogs on Saturday afternoon.

The Pioneers (10-3 overall, 6-0 GOL) will now await their first round opponent in the 4A state playoffs. **RIVERSIDE 11, NYSSA 0** — At Nyssa, the No. 1-ranked Riverside Pirates remained unbeaten on the season with an 11-0 victory over Nyssa on Saturday, the seventh shutout victory of the season for the Pirates.

Riverside (12-0 overall, 5-0 Eastern Oregon League) will finish up league play on Friday with a home game against Irrigon at 4 p.m.

UMATILLA 1, IRRIGON 0 — At Irrigon, the Umatilla Vikings snapped a four game losing streak with a shutout victory over the Knights on Saturday.

Umatilla (2-9-1 overall, 2-3 Eastern Oregon League) will wrap up the regular season on Friday at home against Nyssa at 3:30 p.m.

Irrigon (0-12, 0-5) will host Trout Lake (WA) today at 4 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

RIVERSIDE 1, NYSSA 0 — At Nyssa, the Riverside Pirates kept their undefeated league record intact by edging out the Nyssa Bulldogs for a 1-0 victory on Saturday.

Riverside (7-2-2 overall, 4-0-1 Eastern Oregon League) ends the regular season on Friday at home against Irrigon.

UMATILLA 3, IRRIGON 0 — At Irrigon, the Vikings notched their first win since Sept. 29 with a 3-0 shutout of Irrigon on Saturday afternoon. Umatilla (3-7-3 overall,

2-1-2 Eastern Oregon League) next hosts Nyssa on Friday at 5 p.m. Irrigon (2-9-1, 0-5) travels to Riverside on Friday at 4 p.m.

BAKER 7, MAC-HI 0 — At Baker City, the Mac-Hi Pioneers ended a forgettable 2017 season with a shutout loss to the Baker Bulldogs on Saturday afternoon.

Mac-Hi (0-11-2 overall, 0-6 Greater Oregon League) finishes the season after scoring just eight goals overall and just once in its final nine games.

Coaches can report game scores and statistics by calling 1-800-522-0255 or emailing sports@eastoregonian.com.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP FOOTBALL

Friday
Hermiston at Pendleton, 7 p.m.
Burns at Irrigon, 7 p.m.
Nyssa at Umatilla, 7 p.m.
Riverside at Vale, 7 p.m.
Wednesday
Weston-McEwen at Culver, 7 p.m.
Corbett at Heppner, 7 p.m.
Arlington at Pilot Rock, 7 p.m.
Monroe at Stanfield, 6 p.m.
Harper Charter at Echo, 6 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday
Hillsboro at Pendleton (5A Play-in), 6 p.m.
Wednesday
Ione at North Clackamas Christ. (1A first round), 5 p.m.
Jordan Valley at Echo (1A first round), 5:30 p.m.
Helix at Dufur (1A first round), 6 p.m.
Saturday
Heppner vs. TBD (2A first round), TBD

PREP BOYS SOCCER

Tuesday
Trout Lake (WA) at Irrigon, 4 p.m.
Pendleton at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Friday
Nyssa at Umatilla, 3:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Saturday
Catin Gabel at Riverside, 3 p.m.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Tuesday
Pendleton at Hermiston, 4:30 p.m.
Friday
Irrigon at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Nyssa at Umatilla, 5 p.m.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Thursday
Pendleton, Hermiston at CRC districts (at Wildhorse), 3:30 p.m.
Friday
Heppner, Helix, Stanfield, Weston-McEwen, Umatilla at Districts (Pendleton Community Park, 3 p.m.)

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Wednesday
Yakima Valley at BMCC, 6 p.m.
Friday
BMCC at Treasure Valley, 6 p.m.
EOU at Corban, 7 p.m.
Saturday
EOU at Northwest Christian, 5 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S SOCCER

Wednesday
Treasure Valley at BMCC, 1 p.m.
Friday
Northwest Christian at EOU, 11:30 a.m.
Saturday
Corban at EOU, 11:30 a.m.

COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER

Wednesday
Treasure Valley at BMCC, 3:15 p.m.
Friday
Northwest Christian at EOU, 2 p.m.
Saturday
Corban at EOU, 2 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday
College of Idaho at EOU, 1 p.m.

Prep Standings

Through Oct. 22

PREP FOOTBALL

5A SPECIAL DISTRICT 1
Mtn. View 6-0 8-0 287 83 1
Hermiston 5-1 6-0 273 163 5
Pendleton 4-2 5-3 257 126 11
Bend 4-2 5-3 250 188 18
Summit 3-3 4-4 209 201 13
Hood River 1-5 2-5 150 186 24
Redmond 1-5 1-7 115 325 22
Ridgeview 0-6 0-8 110 358 28

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Lg Ovr PS PARnk
Ontario 3-0 6-2 300 194 9
La Grande 2-1 6-2 244 168 10
Baker 1-2 2-6 94 241 24
Mac-Hi 0-3 3-4 135 143 33

3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE

Lg Ovr PS PARnk
Nyssa 4-0 6-0 214 91 5
Vale 3-1 5-3 236 160 10
Irrigon 2-2 4-3 166 145 12

1A BIG SKY LEAGUE

Lg Ovr SW SLRnk
South Wasco 6-1 23-8 62 27 8
Dufur 6-1 13-10 42 35 19
Ione 4-3 9-19 28 50 34
Sherman 3-4 7-6 25 21 36
Cond./Wheeler 2-5 6-17 25 49 54
Mitch/Spray 0-7 1-13 6 38 62

2A COLUMBIA BASIN CONFERENCE

Lg Ovr PS PARnk
Heppner 3-0 4-3 224 190 10
Stanfield 2-1 2-4 107 178 19
W-McEwen 0-2 1-5 81 211 20
Culver 0-2 0-8 130 341 22
*Pilot Rock 2-5 144 278 X

1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 1

Lg Ovr PS PARnk
Wallowa 5-0 7-1 504 214 6
Crane 4-0 6-1 418 102 6
Echo 4-1 6-2 398 268 10
Adrian 3-1 6-1 362 108 9
Cove 3-2 5-3 326 261 12
Harper Chart. 2-2 3-3 190 211 22
Powder Va. 2-3 2-5 160 314 23
Huntington 1-3 1-4 87 330 30
Joseph 1-4 3-5 220 308 25
Prairie City 0-4 0-8 20 465 35
Pine Eagle 0-5 1-7 202 377 31

1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 4

Lg Ovr PS PARnk
Dufur 3-0 7-0 386 119 2
Sherman 1-1 4-3 288 178 11
Arlington 1-2 5-3 357 170 15
Perrydale 0-2 4-4 324 309 18

PREP BOYS SOCCER

5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE
Lg Ovr GS GARnk
Hood River 3-0 2 7-3 35 13 1
Hermiston 2-0 3 7-3 40 12 12
The Dalles 2-3 5-8 30 37 15
Pendleton 0-4 1 10-11 9 53 27

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Lg Ovr GS GARnk
Mac-Hi 6-0 10-3 33 16 4
La Grande 4-2 8-4 50 15 12
Ontario 2-4 8-4 48 37 20
Baker 0-6 6-7 37 50 29

3A/2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 4

Lg Ovr GS GARnk
Riverside 5-0 12-0 83 11 1
Nyssa 3-2 5-5 49 48 27
Umatilla 2-3 2-9-1 11 52 31
Irrigon 0-5 0-12 11 74 43

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE
Lg Ovr GS GARnk
Hood River 4-0 1 8-2 40 8 8
Hermiston 2-1 2 5-6 12 20 18
The Dalles 2-2 1 3-8 1 41 27
Pendleton 0-5 1-9 2 14 51 31

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Lg Ovr GS GARnk
La Grande 6-0 12-0 42 3 4
Baker 3-2 1 7-3 3 39 20 13
Ontario 2-3 1 7-4 1 60 28 20
Mac-Hi 0-6 0-11 2 8 57 34

3A/2A/1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 2

Lg Ovr GS GARnk
Riverside 4-0 1 7-2 20 3 9
Umatilla 2-2 2 3-7 13 29 18
Nyssa 2-2 1 2-6 10 21 19
Irrigon 0-5 2-9 1 12 32 29

PREP VOLLEYBALL

5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE
Lg Ovr SW SLRnk
Hood River 8-1 13-7 37 25 11
Pendleton 7-2 14-5 42 22 13
The Dalles 2-7 6-13 24 40 24
Hermiston 1-8 4-16 19 47 25

4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE

Lg Ovr SW SLRnk
Baker 6-0 16-8 51 26 9
La Grande 4-2 10-9 29 23 21
Ontario 2-4 5-10 17 27 31
Mac-Hi 0-6 1-13 3 36 39

3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE

Lg Ovr SW SLRnk
Vale 10-0 23-5 65 21 5
Burns 8-2 17-9 48 26 8
Irrigon 6-4 21-8 59 24 14
Nyssa 4-6 8-16 24 54 27
Umatilla 2-8 8-15 29 47 34
Riverside 0-10 0-21 3 58 38

2A COLUMBIA BASIN CONFERENCE

Lg Ovr SW SLRnk
Culver 7-1 18-5 62 13 1
Heppner 7-1 18-5 50 29 5
Pilot Rock 3-5 15-10 44 32 15
W-McEwen 3-5 15-13 52 44 10
Stanfield 0-8 2-20 6 56 30

1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Lg Ovr SW SLRnk
Joseph 11-3 20-9 62 31 9
Echo 10-5 15-9 50 31 23
Helix 9-5 20-9 66 32 24
Powder Va. 13-1 22-12 62 38 10
Cove 6-9 10-14 37 45 38
Wallowa 6-8 7-12 26 39 37
Nixyaawii 1-13 1-13 4 41 56
Pine Eagle 1-13 1-17 5 50 55

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