

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

WORLD SERIES

Dodgers win, force Game 7

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press



LOS ANGELES — Joc Pederson sliced a drive over the left-field wall, pounded his chest and danced around the bases, taking as many twists and turns as this World Series itself. Of course, the Los Angeles Dodgers forced the Houston Astros to Game 7.

Chris Taylor hit a tying double off Justin Verlander during a two-run rally in the sixth inning, Corey Seager followed with a go-ahead sacrifice fly and the Dodgers beat the Astros 3-1 on

Tuesday night to push this dramatic Fall Classic to the ultimate game.

Pederson homered in the seventh against Joe Musgrove, connecting off the right-hander for the second time in three games to make it a record 24 long balls hit in this Series. Pederson pranced all the way to the plate, pointing at the Dodgers' dugout and

rubbing his thumbs and index fingers together to indicate what a money shot it was.

Mired in a major slump earlier this season, Pederson was demoted to the minors — and teammates began offering to pay him for opposite-field home runs in an effort to get him to hit the ball the other way.

"I kind of black out in a situation like that," said Pederson, who has three homers in the Series. "I'm going to have to re-watch it to see what I did."

Yu Darvish starts Wednesday for the Dodgers, trying to win their first title

since 1988, and Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw will be ready in the bullpen. Lance McCullers Jr. goes for the Astros in the first World Series Game 7 ever at Dodger Stadium.

"It's only fitting," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Darvish was chased in the second inning of Game 2, when McCullers pitched Houston to a 5-3 victory.

"Two incredible teams, trying to get to the finish line," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said.

Two nights after a 13-12, See WORLD SERIES/3B



AP Photo/Alex Gallardo

Los Angeles Dodgers' Austin Barnes (15) celebrates at the dugout after scoring on a double by Chris Taylor during the sixth inning of Game 6 of the World Series against the Houston Astros Tuesday in Los Angeles.

HEPPNER

Nichols' put Mustangs on the map

Family helps cross country running emerge in Heppner

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

A few years ago you wouldn't be able to find any runners from Heppner competing in the cross country state championships. It wasn't due to a lack of talent. It was simply because there was no cross country team to begin with.

That changed three years ago when Russ and Toni Nichols saw a hole that needed to be filled. The couple had been contemplating it for years. After finding time away from the many other obligations they had along with getting the OK from the administration, Heppner had its first ever boys and girls cross country team.

"Without having that program — and not just our own kids — but there were kids ahead of them that really wanted it and talked about it, so we thought about it for a while," Toni Nichols said. "But Russ was really involved with baseball at the time, and we had a lot of things we already volunteered for and we were coaching track at that time.

"So, it took us a couple years of talking about it," she added, "and talking with administration to get them on board. It's just one those (things) where there was a need."

Coaching cross country at the high school level would be a new endeavor for the already talented duo. Russ, an experienced runner himself, had been coaching a running club in town. Toni, aside from coaching track, traded in the soccer jersey she once sported for a clipboard instead and started coaching youth soccer in Heppner. Soon, their experience would come together to form what is now a 25-person team.

"The more we heard of interest the more we wanted

See NICHOLS/3B



Heppner's Hunter Nichols competes in the Kyle Burnside Memorial Invite recently at Wildhorse Resort golf course in Mission.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

NFL

Trade deadline features action for a change

Several big-name players change teams

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

The NFL trade deadline finally featured some big-name buzz.

The winless San Francisco 49ers acquired New England backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, and the NFL-leading Philadelphia Eagles bolstered their running attack Tuesday by adding Jay Ajayi from Miami.

The Buffalo Bills, who at 5-2 are off to their best start since 1993, upgraded their receiving group by acquiring Kelvin Benjamin from the Panthers for their third- and seventh-round picks in next year's draft.

The trades came a day after the Seattle Seahawks agreed to send cornerback Jeremy Lane and two draft picks to Houston for left tackle Duane Brown.

Midseason trades rarely bring much excitement or shake up the playoff races. Most years the NFL trade deadline comes and goes without much happening.

In each of the past two years, the biggest name bandied about was 10-time Pro Bowler Joe Thomas, but he never left Cleveland for a contender. It wasn't even a possibility this season after the star left tackle tore his left triceps Oct. 16, an injury that required season-ending surgery and ended his consecutive plays streak at 10,363.

The Niners agreed to send a 2018 second-round pick to the Patriots in the deal that will be official once Garoppolo passes a physical.

San Francisco (0-8) had been expected to either draft a quarterback high in the

See TRADES/3B

Sports shorts

Seahawks could be without Earl Thomas for Sunday's game

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — The Seattle Seahawks are unsure of the status of safety Earl Thomas after he suffered a strained hamstring late in their win over the Houston Texans.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll said Monday the team won't know until late in the week whether Thomas will be able to play against Washington. Thomas was injured in the fourth quarter of Seattle's 41-38 win over Houston as he tried to chase down DeAndre Hopkins on a 72-yard touchdown catch-and-run.

Thomas pulled up holding his right hamstring and was unable to go back in later in the fourth quarter. He was replaced by Bradley McDougald. "He's a little sore. We've looked at him, he has a strain that we have to figure out," Carroll said.



Thomas

"Off the court we've got great chemistry, great bond. Just, on the court we just got to be better. Like, talking, communicating, enjoying the game together. Having fun. ... Right now guys are not having fun."

— Tyronn Lue

Cleveland Cavaliers head coach on his team's slow start. Cleveland is off to a 3-4 start and rank as one of the worst defensive teams in the NBA with recent losses to Brooklyn, New York and Orlando.

Georgia No. 1 in initial College Football Playoff rankings

NEW YORK (AP) — Georgia, Alabama, Notre Dame and Clemson are the top four teams in the first College Football Playoff rankings of the season.

Oklahoma and Ohio State were the next two in the selection committee's initial top 25. The final rankings that will determine the participants in the College Football Playoff semifinals come out Dec. 3.

Over the first three seasons of the playoff, a total of five teams have been ranked in the top four of the initial ranking and gone on to reach the semifinals: Florida State (which was second) in 2014; Clemson (first) and Alabama (fourth) in 2015; and Alabama (first) and Clemson (second) in 2016.

Washington is the highest-ranked Pac-12 team at No. 12 and Washington State is No. 25.



THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1938 — Before a crowd of 40,000 spectators, Seabiscuit, under jockey George Woolf, beat odds-on favorite War Admiral in the Pimlico Special, a winner-take-all match race with a purse of \$15,000.

2010 — The San Francisco Giants beat the Texas Rangers 3-1 in a tense Game 5 to bring a World Series title to the city by the Bay for the first time. Tim Lincecum outduels Cliff Lee in a matchup that was scoreless until Edgar Renteria earns the Series MVP award by hitting a stunning three-run homer with two outs in the seventh inning.

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