Pro Baseball

MLB aggressively looking at pace-of-play fixes

League asks to start All-Star 11th inning with runner on 2nd base

> By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — A runner would be put on second base at the start of the 11th inning of the All-Star Game and each additional inning, according to the latest pace-of-game proposal by Major League Baseball.

The experiment also would be used in the 10th inning of spring training games, according to the Jan. 9 proposal obtained by The Associated Press. Spring training games would be capped at 10

Concerned about injuries in games that don't count, the players' association isn't expected to oppose the concept. MLB isn't considering using the rule in any games that

Baseball experimented with the rule last year at the rookie level Gulf Coast and Arizona leagues, putting a runner on second base starting in the 10th. Extra-inning games in those two leagues averaged 27 minutes longer than nine-inning games, down from 43 minutes for all other minor leagues.

Unable thus far to negotiate a deal with players for a pitch clock or limits on mound visits, baseball owners discuss their next step this week during meetings that end Thursday in Beverly Hills, Cali-

Commissioner Rob Manfred met Jan. 23 with union head Tony Clark. Manfred has long vowed to make changes for this season with or without an agreement but says his preference is for a deal and is willing to negotiate the rules.

MLB has the right to implement the proposal it made last offseason, which includes a 30-second clock between batters and a 20-second clock between pitches that would reset when a pitcher steps off the



AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin, File

In this March 8, 2015, file photo, Seattle's J.A. Happ throws a pitch between innings as pitch clock counts down in the background during a spring training game against the Cincinnati Reds in Goodyear, Ariz. MLB owners and executives meet this week in Beverley Hills, Calif.,, and will discuss whether to push ahead with pitch clocks and limits on mound visits despite opposition from players.

rubber and when he makes or feints a pickoff throw, according to details obtained by the AP. There also would be a limit of one mound trip per pitcher each inning, whether by a manager, coach or player, and a second visit would result in a pitching change. Violations would be punished by ball-strike penalties.

Nine-inning games averaged a record 3 hours, 5 minutes during the 2017 regular season and 3:29 during the postseason. Players have resisted a pitch clock while appearing slightly more amenable to limits on mound visits.

Los Angeles Angels owner Arne Moreno is among those who doesn't think radical changes are needed.

'We just watched a World Series game that lasted over five hours and my wife hung with me the whole night," he said last week at the Hall of Fame news conference. "I would probably say I'm a traditionalist and let them play."

Under the latest MLB proposal, there would be a pitch timer this year only when no runners are on base and it would be set to 18 seconds.

A 20-second timer with runners on base would be added for 2019.

The clock would not be used for the pitch following a foul ball or an umpire calling time, and there would be no penalties this year during spring training or April. Starting in May, each player would receive a warning for a violation and penalties would not start until a team's third violation in a game. A player, manager or coach leaving the bench to argue a violation call would be automatically ejected.

There would be a 35-second timer between at-bats, and while there would not ball-strike penalties for violations this year, frequent violators would be subject to discipline for "just cause." The MLB proposal says management would agree to the union's Jan. 5 counterproposal that ball-strike penalties start May 1, 2019, if the average time between plays in 2018 is 46 seconds or more or the average time of a nine-inning game through Aug. 31 this year is three hours or more.

Management also would agree to the union's proposal there be a between-inning and pitching change timer of 2:05 for most games, 2:25 for national television games and 2:55 for tiebreaker and postgame games. There would be no ball-strike penalties this year. If an inning ends when a pitcher is on base, at the plate of on deck, the clock would start when the pitcher leaves the dugout for the mound. If an inning ends with the catch on base, at the plate or on deck, the clock would start when he enters the dugout. Both sides would agree that

there be no ball-strike penalties for inning-break violations until May 1, 2019. Management's trigger for violations would be that inning breaks for locally broadcast games this year average 2:25 of more or the average time of a nine-inning game through Aug. 31 this year is three hours or more. The timer would be set at 2:25 for locally broadcast games, 2:45 for national TV games and 3:15 for tiebreaker and postseason games. In the first season of a between-innings time, a team would receive three warnings before a ball-strike penalty is imposed

Mound visits without a pitching change would be limited to six per team over the first nine innings with one additional trip each extra inning. The amount for the first nine innings would drop to five in any season after the average time of nine-inning games through Aug. 31 is three hours or more. Additional mound trips would be allowed after pitcher-catcher cross-ups on pitch signals.

Teams also agreed at the union's option they either would make a \$100,000 contribution to the union's Players Trust charity for each minute the average game time in a season through Aug. 31 drops below three hours or make a \$500,000 total gift to the players on the teams with the two quickest game time averages and the two teams with the greatest improvement. Players on a team would have the option to donate their share to charity.

BRIEFLY

Mac-Hi Baseball holding Comedy Night Fundraiser

MILTON-FREEWATER The Mac-Hi baseball team is putting the fun back in fundraising.

On Friday evening, the team is holding a Comedy Night fundraiser presented by Blue Mountain Tire Pros. with stand-up comedian Kermit Apio as the headliner. According to a press release, Apio has been featured on the radio show The Bob and Tom Show and has appeared on television on NBC, A&E and PBS. He has also performed on college campuses across the country, and recently performed at The Gesa Powerhouse Theatre in Walla Walla on New Year's Eve.

The show will take place at Jack Williams Auditorium at McLoughlin High School on Friday night at 7 p.m. The majority of the seating is first-come, first-serve and the school is expecting a sellout. Tickets are \$12 in advance, which can be purchased at the school, and \$15 at the door.

For more information contact Mark Michaud at Mark.Michaud@ miltfree.k12.or.us or on Facebook at Facebook.com/ MacHiBaseball.

Five Oregonians to compete in Pyeongchang **Olympics**

MILTON-FREEWATER — More than 240 athletes will be representing the United States at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics beginning next week, with a few Oregonians as a part of that group.

Five Oregonians in total will be making the trip, three males and two females. Ben Ferguson, of Bend, will be competing in the snowboard halfpipe; Tommy Ford, of Bend, will be competing in alpine skiing events; Sam Michener, of Gresham, will compete in four-man bobsled; and Bend's Laurenne Ross and Portland's Jacqueline Wiles will be competing in alpine skiing.

Colorado has the largest contingent competing with 31 athletes, while California has 22, Minnesota 19, New York 18, and Utah 16.

Texas Governor orders criminal probe of gymnastics ranch

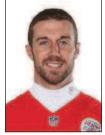
AUSTIN, Texas (AP) Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered a criminal investigation into claims that former doctor Larry Nassar abused some of his victims at a Texas ranch that was the training ground for U.S.

women's gymnastics. Body: Abbott ordered the Texas Kangers, the state's top criminal investigations unit, to look into the Karolyi Ranch. It hosted training camps for more than a decade until earlier this year. The Walker County Sheriff's Office is already investigating.

Several gymnasts have said Nassar abused them at the

Abbott called the allegations "gut-wrenching." He ordered the state investigation because the claims involve multiple jurisdictions and states.

Chiefs trade QB Alex Smith to Washington for pick, player



WASHINGTON Kansas City has agreed to trade quarterback Alex Smith to Washington, a move that spells the end of Kirk Cousins' time with the Redskins and hands the Chiefs' job to Patrick Mahomes.

knowledge of the deal confirmed the move to Associated Press on Tuesday night on condition anonymity because the transaction can't be completed until the start of the new league year in March. One person told the AP the Redskins had agreed Two people with direct to a four-year extension with

Smith, who had one year left on his contract.

Smith, who turns 34 in May, spent the past five seasons with the Chiefs, leading them to the playoffs four times while throwing for 102 touchdowns and 33 interceptions. He carries a \$17 million salary-cap hit for

cap space and can turn to Mahomes, the 10th pick in last year's draft out of Texas Tech, as its new starter.

Smith becomes Washington's new franchise quarterback after throwing for 31,888 yards and 183 touchdowns in 12 NFL seasons with the San Francisco 49ers and Chiefs.

their families on the basketball

court in front of a packed crowd

at the Dawg House, wide smiles

instantly lit up each players' face

before heading back up to their

seat in the bleachers to show it off

senior and all-state lineman Beau

Blake said. "All of our hard work

paid off and now we get to look at

this ring and remember all of the

ship rings in front of their rival

Buckaroo students and fans made

the night even that much better.

And receiving the champion-

"Get to rub it in their face a little

"It feels so amazing to have it,"

to their friends and family.

good times from this year."

BLING: Seniors had input, but coaches scaled back final design

Continued from 1B

feeling than before."

The ring displays a rectangular face with the words 'State champions' emblazoned in silver split among the top and bottom edge, with shiny stones lining the left and right edges. In the middle is the Hermiston 'H' logo in purple and gold with the Bulldog head in the

Gutierrez, an all-state defensive back this past season, said that a group of seniors had a little bit of input into the design, though they soon realized the ring they envisioned was a bit too flashy and would be too expensive. The final design was scaled back, but still got the approval of the players.

"(Coach David) Faaeteete kind of made it look nicer, I think," Gutierrez said.

The team also had custom-made t-shirts for the presentation, with



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston senior Beau Blake poses for a photo with his family during a football state championship ring presentation on Tuesday.

all players and coaches wearing black shirts with the words 'Ring 'em up" in purple and white

lettering with a picture of the ring in centered between the words. After receiving the rings from

bit," Blake joked. "Not too much, but just enough to make them

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SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL Friday Stanfield at Culver, 6 p.m.

Staffined at Cuttler, 6 p.m.
Hood River at Pendleton, 7 p.m.
Hermiston at The Dalles, 7 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Sherman, 7 p.m.
Irrigon at Burns, 7:30 p.m.
Umatilla at Nyssa, 7:30 p.m.
Riverside at Vale, 7:30 p.m. Heppner at Weston-McEwen. 7:30 n.m. lone at Horizon Christian, 7:30 p.m. Dufur at Arlington, 7:30 p.m. Helix at Powder Valley, 7:30 p.m. Saturday Culver at Heppner, 4 p.m.

Cuiver at neppiner, 4 p.m.
Umatilla at Vale, 4:30 p.m.
Powder Valley at Echo, 5 p.m.
South Wasco at Ione, 5:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Dufur, 5:30 p.m.
Helix at Nixyaavii, 5:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Nyssa, 6:30 p.m. Riverside at Burns, 6:30 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Pilot Rock, 7 p.m. La Grande at Mac-Hi, 7 p.m. Arlington at Sherman, 7 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday
Stanfield at Culver, 4:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Burns, 6 p.m.
Umatilla at Nyssa, 6 p.m.
Riverside at Vale, 6 p.m.
Heppner at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m. Ione at Horizon Christian, 6 p.m. ione at Horizon Christian, 6 p.m.
Dufur at Arlington, 6 p.m.
Sherman at Condon/Wheeler, 7 p.m.
Helix at Powder Valley, 6 p.m.
The Dalles at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Pendleton at Hood River, 7 p.m.

Saturday
La Grande at Mac-Hi, 3 p.m.
Umatilla at Vale, 3 p.m.
Umatilla at Vale, 4 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Pilot Rock, 4 p.m.
South Macada and Appendix at Language and Appendix Appendix and Appendix Appen South Wasco at Ione, 4 p.m. Condon/Wheeler at Dufur, 4 p.m. Helix at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m. Irrigon at Nyssa, 5 p.m. Riverside at Burns, 5 p.m. Powder Valley at Echo, 5:30 p.m.

Arlington at Sherman, 7 p.m.

Wednesday Hermiston at Pendleton, 7 p.m. La Grande at Mac-Hi

Saturday
Riverside, Irrigon, Echo at District Tournament (Boardman), 10 a.m. Heppner at District Tournament (Joseph), 10 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday Treasure Valley at BMCC, 8 p.m.

Friday
Northwest at EOU, 7:30 p.m. Saturday
BMCC at Big Bend, 4 p.m.
Evergreen at EOU, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wednesday
Treasure Valley at BMCC, 6 p.m. Friday Northwest at EOU, 5:30 p.m. Saturday

BMCC at Big Bend, 2 p.m. Northwest at EOU, 5:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WRESTLING **Saturday** EOU (women) at Southern Oregon, 6

EOU (men) at Southern Oregon, 7 p.m.

Prep Scores BOYS BASKETBALL

Condon/Wheeler 69, Arlington 60 lone 51, Mitchell/Spray 26 Jefferson 42, Scio 37, OT Jerietson 42, Scio 37, OT Knappa 80, City Christian 56 Lake Oswego 65, Newberg 53 Nixyaawii 86, Echo 47 North Douglas 46, Glendale 40 Pendleton 51, Hermiston 44 Perrydale 72, Jewell 32 The Dalles 72, Hood River 66 Tigard 65, West Linn 63 Toledo 73, Bandon 60, OT Tri-Valley, Idaho 69, Adrian 41

Trinity Lutheran 42, Central Christian 29 Tualatin 63, Lakeridge 62 PREP WRESTLING Umpqua Valley Christian 64, New Hope Christian 38 Valley Catholic 75. Tillamook 48 Valor Christian 46, N. Clackamas Christian

Waldport 60, Reedsport 45

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Bend 55, Summit 53
Condon/Wheeler 41, Arlington 24
Coquille 34, Harrisburg 20
Jone 47, Mitchell/Spray 18 Jefferson 39, Scio 23 Lake Oswego 54, Newberg 52 Nyssa 46, La Grande 39 Oakland 62, Oakridge 37 Oregon City 86, Centennial 23 Pacific 44, Yoncalla 31 Pendleton 49, Hermiston 44 Ridgeview 53, Mountain View 49 Rogue Valley Adventist 37, Chiloquin 29 Salem Academy 68, Chemawa 13 Toledo 53, Bandon 15 Touchet, Wash. 50, McLoughlin 27 Triad School 60, Hosanna Christian 59

Basketball

EASTERN CONFERENCE L Pct GB

oston	36	15 ./06	_	
oronto	34	15 .694	1	
hiladelphia	24	23 .511	10	
lew York	23	28 .451	13	
Brooklyn	18	33 .353	18	
Southeast Divis	ion			
	W	L Pct	GB	
∕liami	29	21 .580	_	
Vashington	28	22 .560	1	
Charlotte	20	29 .408	81/2	
Atlanta	15	35 .300	14	
Orlando	14	35 .286	141/2	
Central Division				
	W	L Pct	GB	
Cleveland	29	20 .592	_	
∕lilwaukee	27	22 .551	2	
ndiana	28	23 .549	2	
Detroit	23	26 .469	6	

Chicago 18 32 360 11½ WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division W

L Pct GB
13 .735 —
19 .642 4
23 .540 9½
31 .367 18
35 .314 21 San Antonio New Orleans Memphis Dallas Northwest Division L Pct GB 22 .593 — 21 .588 ½ 22 .560 2 25 .510 4½ Minnesota Oklahoma City Portland Denver 26 22 28 .440

Pacific Division W L Pct GB Golden State 11 .784 — 25 .500 14½ L.A. Clippers L.A. Lakers 30 .388 20 19 34 .333 23 34 .320 23½

Tuesday's Games Washington 102, Oklahoma City 96 New York 111, Brooklyn 95 Toronto 109, Minnesota 104
Detroit 125, Cleveland 114
Houston 114, Orlando 107
Sacramento 114, New Orleans 103
San Antonio 106, Denver 104
Light 120, Colder, Even 104 Utah 129, Golden State 99 Portland 104, L.A. Clippers 96

Wednesday's Games L.A. Lakers at Orlando, 4 p.m. Memphis at Indiana, 4 p.m. Charlotte at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m. Miami at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m Philadelphia at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m. New York at Boston, 5 p.m. Chicago at Portland, 7 p.m. Dallas at Phoenix, 7:30 p.m.

Top 25 Schedule Tuesday No. 22 Rhode Island 85, UMASS 83 Georgia 72, No. 23 Florida 60 No. 17 Ohio State 71, Indiana 56

NCAA Men's Basketball

No. 20 Clemson 82, No. 19 North Carolina

Philadelphia 49 24 17
N.Y. Rangers 50 25 20
N.Y. Islanders 51 25 21
Carolina 50 23 19

No. 6 Xavier 73, St. John's 68 No. 11 Auburn 79, Mississippi 70 No. 12 Oklahoma 98, Baylor 96 No. 21 Kentucky 83, Vanderbilt 81 Wednesday Penn State at No. 5 Michigan St., 3:30

LSU at No. 18 Tennessee, 3:30 p.m. Louisville at No. 2 Virginia, 4 p.m. (ESPN2) Houston at No. 8 Cincinnati, 4 p.m.

No. 15 West Virginia at Iowa St., 4 p.m. (ESPNU) Maryland at No. 3 Purdue, 5:30 p.m. Texas at No. 10 Texas Tech, 5:30 p.m. No. 9 Arizona at Washington St., 7 p.m.

NCAA Women's Basketball Top 25 Schedule Tuesday
No. 22 TCU 75, Iowa State 52
Wednesday
Penn State at No. 18 Ohio State, 4 p.m.
No. 23 Oklahoma St. at No. 3 Baylor,

No. 8 Texas at Kansas, 5 p.m. **Hockey**

EASTERN CONFERENCE

L OT Pts GF GA13 3 71 176 128
11 8 66 157 119 Tampa Bay 50 34 48 29 Boston 51 28 18 48 20 22 48 19 21 50 20 24 48 15 24 50 14 27 Toronto Florida Detroit Montreal Ottawa Buffalo Metropolitan Division

5 61 162 146 6 46 136 159 8 46 126 146 6 46 130 159 9 39 125 168 9 37 115 166

8 56 141 141 5 55 153 151 5 55 173 184 8 54 139 155

WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA 8 68 167 137 7 65 146 125 3 65 151 131 4 60 155 137 5 59 147 142 4 58 160 143 7 55 148 137 Winnipeg Nashville St. Louis Dallas 51 28 Minnesota 50 27 Colorado 49 27

Colorauc Chicago 50 25 Pacific Division GP W 49 27 18 50 24 19 L OT Pts GF GA 12 4 70 168 130 16 7 59 145 138 Vegas 49 33 12
San Jose 49 26 16
Los Angeles 50 27 18
Anaheim 51 25 17
Calgary 50 25 17
Edmonton 49 22 24
Vancouver 50 20 24
Arizona 50 12 29
NOTE: Two points for a win 4 70 168 130 7 59 145 138 5 59 142 121 Arizona 50 12 29 9 33 118 17: NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for

Minnesota 3, Columbus 2, SO Pittsburgh 5, San Jose 2 Florida 4, N.Y. Islanders 1 Anaheim 3, Boston 1 Carolina 2, Ottawa 1 New Jersey 3, Buffalo 1 Winnipeg 3, Tampa Bay 1 St. Louis 3, Montreal 1 Chicago 2, Nashville 1 Los Angeles 3, Dallas 0 Vegas 4, Calgary 2 Vancouver 4, Colorado 3 Wednesday's Games N.Y. Islanders at Toronto, 4:30 p.m San Jose at Detroit, 5 p.m

Philadelphia at Washington, 5 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Football

NFL PRO BOWL Sunday AFC 24, NFC 23 SUPER BOWL 52 Sunday, Feb. 4 New England vs. Philadelphia, 3:30 p.m.