

Parity ruling the day in WNBA

By DOUG FEINBERG
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Parity is rampant in the WNBA this season as the league reaches the midway point.

Only three losses separate the top eight teams.

Phoenix, Los Angeles and Seattle are at the top of the standings. Minnesota got off to a rough start, but lately has turned things around with seven consecutive victories.

“I think it’s the best and I’ve been in the league a lot of years. It’s the best year since I’ve been here. Every team has everyone playing for them with no one sitting out,” Seattle coach Dan Hughes said. “There’s a fine line between a lot of us. If

you’re not on your game every night you’re probably going to get beat.”

Seattle’s next opponent is New York on Tuesday night. The Liberty have struggled to a 5-11 start this season after finishing with the third best record the past few seasons. New York has nearly the entire team back and just seem a play or two away from winning games.

“We’re right there, we just are missing a rebound or a defensive assignment,” Liberty forward Shavonte Zellous said. “We still have faith in each other that we can turn things around.”

New York is currently sitting in 11th place in the standings. The only team that is below the Liberty is the Indiana Fever, who is off to the worst start in fran-



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File
Seattle Storm’s Breanna Stewart (30) celebrates a score against the Connecticut Sun in the second half of a WNBA basketball game, in Seattle.

chise history with a 1-16 record. They are in danger of breaking the record for the league’s worst season set by the Tulsa Shock in 2011

when they went 3-31.

Phoenix took over the No. 1 position in the power poll for the first time since it began three years ago.

HERMISTON: Leaves for ‘ships in a week

Continued from 1B

and Chase Smith all tied for 13th place (95) with other athletes from Arlington, Madras, Mountain View and Estacada.

Hermiston has continued to dominate in a league that went from three teams in its first year to now nearly 25 teams across Oregon state. The team’s lasting success is in part due to the knowledge of the coaching staff, including head coach and long-time trap shooter John Adams, and also their efforts both during the season and in their free time.

“Our coaches, a lot of us have shot a long time and

just a lot of practice,” Mabbot attributed as the keys to Hermiston’s success.

“Right now, we’re ranked third in the nation for high school teams and not a lot of people realize how many teams there are. There’s 8,000 kids alone in Minnesota that shoot so there’s a lot of teams.”

With averages ranging from 23.7 to 24.7 — Mabbot again leading the group — Hermiston is in a good position to take home a national title.

“Last year I would have been really nervous,” Mabbot said, “but this year I’m not. I know if I stick to my routine I’ll be fine.”

OSU: The Beavers lost one incoming recruit to draft

Continued from 1B

made the right decision.”

Grenier, also a three-year starter and OSU’s primary shortstop the past two seasons, batted .319 with six home runs and 47 RBIs as a junior. A CWS finals hero, Grenier’s two-out, ninth-inning RBI single tied Game 2 at 3.

The Las Vegas-area native was a 21st-round selection by the St. Louis Cardinals in 2015 out of Bishop Gorman High (Nevada). Grenier, listed at 5-11 and 188 pounds, was picked 37th overall this year and reportedly signed at his \$1.9 million slot value.

Grenier won the 2018 Brooks Wallace Award, given annually to the nation’s top collegiate shortstop by the College Baseball Foundation.

“I owe it all to the preparation that I put in day in and day out,” Grenier said on draft night. “I take every ground ball in practice like it’s a Game 7 World Series clincher. And that is just the way I go about my business on defense. I know my athleticism and my arm, and I expect to make plays that people can’t even dream of and I expect to make them routinely. So it is all the mindset and preparation I put in and it pays off.”

Gretler, from Bonney Lake, Washington, hit .305 as a senior in 2018 with seven home runs and 51 RBIs. He was a 10th-round selection this June after going in the 39th round — also to Pittsburgh — last year.

Gretler was a career .285 hitter for the Beavers, appearing in 202 games with 178 starts. He signed for \$50,000 (slot value \$140,800), according to MLB.com’s Jim Callis.

“If there’s an MVP on our team, (Gretler) is one of them,” coach Pat Casey said earlier this year. “He does everything for us.”

Rasmussen, who missed the entire 2018 season after

undergoing a second Tommy John surgery, was drafted in the sixth round (185th overall) and reportedly signed for \$135,000. The slot value for the 185th pick was \$251,700.

Rasmussen, a three-time draftee, was a 39th-round selection in 2014 out of Mount Spokane High in Washington. He went 31st overall last June but didn’t sign with the Tampa Bay Rays after failing an MRI.

“Here’s a guy that was a first-rounder and somebody is going to get a guy that they’re going to love in their organization because he’s just off the charts,” Casey said last month.

Hermiston rallies for late victory over Richland

Hermiston Legion put up a two spot in the top of the seventh to secure a win over Richland on Wednesday.

In the Tri Cities, Hermiston (6-18) took a very early 1-0 lead after the top half of the opening frame but a powerful Richland offense was on display and the home team got back out in front, 2-1, after the first.

Each team scored three runs in the fifth to keep the advantage in Richland’s favor, 5-4, but Tick and Checho Rosales each

brought home runners on RBI single line drives to center field to ultimately put Hermiston on top.

Rustin Edmiston was awarded the win after pitching 2 1/3 innings of relief. Edmiston allowed only one hit and struck out one batter while toeing the rubber. Seth Prewitt got the start for Hermiston and lasted three innings before being replaced in favor of Ethin Randolph.

Offensively Prewitt, Kelson Robertson and Gavin Hunter each had two hits for Hermiston. Prewitt also ended the day with two RBI with Randolph and Spencer Juul joining Tick and Checho Rosales with one RBI apiece.

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