

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

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OREGON STATE BASEBALL



Oregon State pitcher Kevin Abel (23) throws against Arkansas during the third inning of Game 3 of the NCAA College World Series baseball finals.

AP Photo/Nati Harnik

Abel named top freshman

OSU pitcher earns national freshman of the year

By BOB LUNDEBERG
Albany Democrat Herald

CORVALLIS — Seven days after throwing a two-hitter in the College World Series finals, Oregon State's Kevin Abel was named national freshman of the year by D1Baseball.com Thursday morning.

Abel led all Division I freshmen with 108 strikeouts and finished

with a .181 batting average against in 81½ innings. He went 8-1 (23 appearances, seven starts) and compiled a 2.88 ERA.

At the CWS, Abel finished 4-0 — the first four-game winner in CWS history — and struck out 23 in 21 innings with a 0.86 ERA. He was also electric at the Corvallis Regional, throwing eight three-hit innings in a 12-0 victory over LSU.

Abel retired 20 Arkansas batters in a row to close Game 3 of the CWS finals, a 5-0 OSU victory that clinched the program's third national title. He struck out 10 with

two walks, throwing 129 pitches.

"That might've been the best single pitching performance I've ever seen," teammate Jake Mulholland said. "And that's saying a lot because we are surrounded by the best pitchers in the country with Luke (Heimlich), (Bryce) Fehmel, Jake Thompson, up and down the bullpen. We've had some pretty incredible performances, and that might've been the best."

Fellow Pac-12 standouts Spencer Torkelson (first base) of Arizona State and Zach Pettway

See ABEL/3B

Legion baseball

Hodgen roughed up in Spokane

East Oregonian

The 2018 Spokane American Legion Wood Bat Classic did not start as planned for Hodgen Distributing on Thursday, as it lost 10-2 to the Spokane Expos 19u and then was thumped 20-7 by the Prairie Phillies.

Against the Expos, Hodgen Distributing (18-10) managed only five hits in the game and did not score until the fifth inning. Trailing 7-0 at that point, Kyle Field started the inning with a walk and Ty Beers and Cooper Roberts each singled to load the bases with only one out. Quinn Doherty drew a bases-loaded walk to get Hodgen on the board, but that's all it would get as Ryan Stahl and Tanner Sweek both followed with strikeouts to strand the bases loaded.

Then in the sixth, Curtis Simons doubled and advanced to third on a passed ball and then scored on a double play off the bat of Tucker Zander.

After a three-hour break, Hodgen Distributing was back on the field against Prairie and things started out well for the Pendleton team. It scored three times in the bottom of the first and three times in the third inning to hold a 6-4 lead.

However, in the top of the fourth things went downhill fast for Hodgen. Prairie put together a 12-run fourth inning thanks to five Hodgen errors, four walks and four hits in the inning to take control of the game.

Prairie then followed it up with a four-run fifth inning behind one walk, one hit-by-pitch and four more Hodgen errors to cruise to the win. In those two frames, eight errors came with two outs.

Logan Weinke, Stahl, Sweek and Zander each finished with two-hit days, while Ty Beers, Cooper Roberts, Simons and Doherty all had one hit apiece.

Hodgen aims to rebound on Friday when it plays the Medicine Hat Monarchs at 8 a.m. and then the Northern Lakes Mountaineers at 10:30 a.m. to wrap up pool play.

Diamondjaxx drop a pair

Just like their Senior Legion counterparts, the Junior Legion Pepsi Diamondjaxx had an 0-2 start to the Spokane Wood Bat Classic on Thursday with a 8-4 loss to Lewis & Clark and a 12-2 loss to Indians Red.

The Diamondjaxx had a good start to the day against Lewis & Clark, where they scored twice in the first inning and twice in the third to hold an early lead.

See LEGION/3B



AP Photo/Stephen Brashear

Seattle Mariners' Chris Herrmann runs the bases after hitting a solo home run off Los Angeles Angels relief pitcher Miguel Almonte during the seventh inning of Thursday's game in Seattle.

Mariners top Halos

Chris Herrmann hits first homer with Seattle, M's beat Angels 4-1

By TODD MILLES
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Chris Herrmann hit his first home run for Seattle and Marco Gonzales pitched six solid innings to lead the Mariners to a 4-1 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Thursday night.

Gonzales (9-5) gave up five hits while striking out seven in a 102-pitch outing. The lone run he gave up was Kole Calhoun's sacrifice fly in the fourth inning to tie the game at 1.

In the fifth, Guillermo Heredia's line drive over Justin Upton's head in left field for an RBI double gave Seattle the lead back at 2-1.

In the seventh inning, Her-



Seattle Mariners relief pitcher Edwin Diaz, left, and catcher Chris Herrmann celebrate after a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels on Thursday in Seattle. The Mariners won the game 4-1.

mann's solo blast off reliever Miguel Almonte carried deep into the right-field bleachers. Dee Gordon tripled into the right-field corner with two outs, and Jean Segura greeted reliever Cam Bedrosian with a high-chopping RBI single to third baseman David Fletcher to extend Seattle's lead to 4-1.

Edwin Diaz struck out the side in the ninth to lock up his major league-leading 34th save.

The Mariners have not lost a home series since May 6, when they dropped two of three games to the Angels. They are 6-0-3 during that span.

Angels starter Jaime Barria (5-5) allowed two runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings in the loss.

HERNANDEZ BACK 'BETTER'

Seattle right-hander Felix Hernandez insists he feels much better before his scheduled start Friday against Colorado than he did nearly a week ago.

Hernandez tweaked his back during a workout in Baltimore. It tightened on him before his start Saturday against Kansas City - one in which he surrendered three earned runs before recording an out in a 6-4 victory.

"There isn't anything structurally wrong. It's just tight," Mariners manager Scott Servais said.

With the help of heat and ice packs, and more stretching, Hernandez's back has felt better this week. He even

See MARINERS/3B

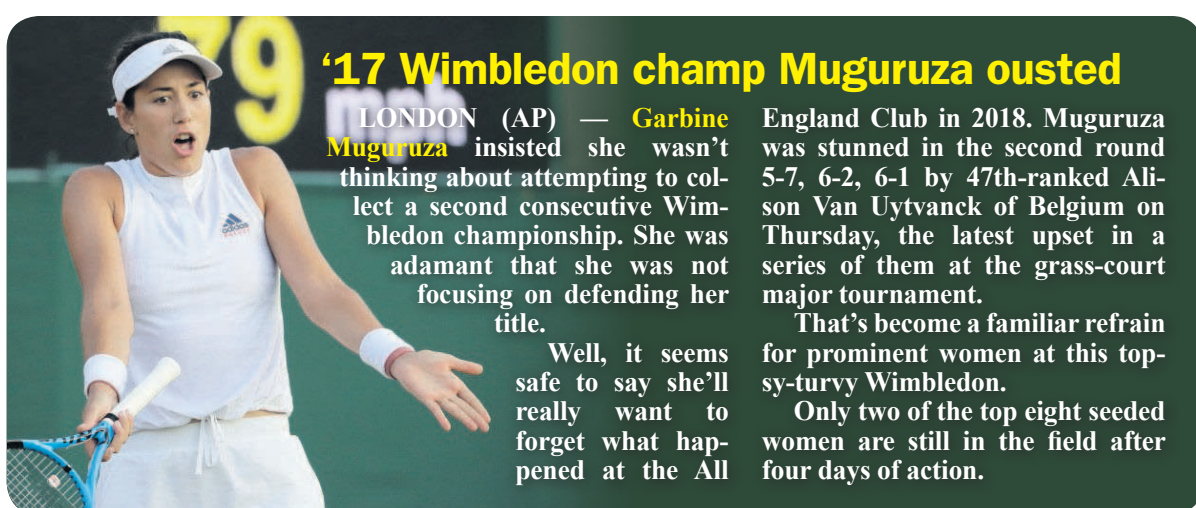
Sports shorts

Trail Blazers sign Nik Stauskas to 1-year deal

(AP) — Nik Stauskas is officially a member of the Portland Trail Blazers, after signing his one-year, \$1.6 million contract.

Portland will be Stauskas' fourth team in his five NBA seasons, following stops in Philadelphia, Sacramento and Brooklyn. He's a career 35 percent 3-point shooter.

"Nik is a versatile and talented perimeter player that will seamlessly fit into our style of play," Portland general manager Neil Olshey said.



'17 Wimbledon champ Muguruza ousted

LONDON (AP) — Garbine Muguruza insisted she wasn't thinking about attempting to collect a second consecutive Wimbledon championship. She was adamant that she was not focusing on defending her title.

Well, it seems safe to say she'll really want to forget what happened at the All

England Club in 2018. Muguruza was stunned in the second round 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 by 47th-ranked Alison Van Uytvanck of Belgium on Thursday, the latest upset in a series of them at the grass-court major tournament.

That's become a familiar refrain for prominent women at this top-spy Wimbledon.

Only two of the top eight seeded women are still in the field after four days of action.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1933 — The first major league All-Star game is played at Comiskey Park, Chicago. The American League beats the National League 4-2 on Babe Ruth's two-run homer.

1957 — Althea Gibson becomes the first black to win a title at the All England Lawn Tennis Club by beating Darlene Hard 6-3, 6-2 in the women's singles title match.

1968 — Billie Jean King wins her third consecutive women's singles title at Wimbledon by beating Australia's Judy Tegart 9-7, 7-5.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com