

HOMER: Harper’s dad Ron pitched to him

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before entering extra time.

The six-time All-Star arranged to have his dad, Ron, pitch to him in the annual contest on the eve of the All-Star Game. That made the victory even sweeter.

“I’m only as good as my BP guy,” Harper said with a grin.

Hours before the session, Harper spoke excitedly about having his dad pitch to him in the contest. The 25-year-old said his father “worked his tail off every single day to provide for me and my family” and “now being able to have him throw to me in a big league ballpark is the cherry on top.”

Afterward, Ron Harper said of his son: “He did great. So I’m really proud of him. He’s a great kid. You couldn’t ask for anything better.”

It’s been a tough year for Harper, who’s hitting only .214 for the disappointing Nationals. He won a contest that many

sluggers avoid, fearful it might wear them out and throw them off.

He can only hope this helps him get back into the swing.

The 2015 NL MVP beat Freddie Freeman of the Atlanta Braves and Max Muncy of the Dodgers before trumping the fifth-seeded Schwarber, who put the pressure on with a solid outing before Harper stepped to the plate.

“As soon as I got done with that round I told myself that (Harper) had it,” Schwarber said. “I knew that he had the home crowd behind him.”

Harper, who has 23 home runs this season, advanced to the final with an astonishing spree of longball hitting. He trailed Max Muncy of the Dodgers 12-4 with 2:20 left, then peeled off six homers in 47 seconds before calling a timeout.

Harper returned to hit three more home runs in 22 seconds, the last of them inside the right-field foul pole.



Washington Nationals’ Max Scherzer, left, and Bryce Harper look on at a baseball press conference.

ALL-STAR: Scherzer has 12 wins, 2.41 ERA

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Harper reiterated it’s no secret he’s in the final year of his contract and brushed aside a question about trimming his beard last month when the New York Yankees came to town. But it’s a shadow hanging over the first All-Star festivities in Washington since 1969.

“Everybody knew that at the beginning of the year this could be possibly my last year in D.C.,” Harper said. “There’s no elephant in the room. Everybody knows that that’s a possibility. But I’m not really focused on that. I’m focused on what I can do to help the team win on a daily basis.”

Still-Nationals teammate Max Scherzer will start the All-Star Game on Tuesday night, a no-brainer choice given his 12 victories, 2.41 ERA, NL-best 182 strikeouts and the game being in Washington. NL manager Dave Roberts of the Los Angeles Dodgers complimented New York Mets right-hander Jacob deGrom, who will get the ball second, but

said the setting was the tiebreaker.

“It’s his city. It’s his ballpark,” Dave Roberts said. “I’ve always tried to make things bigger than me and the club. And I think that Max, for the game of baseball, for our country, he’s the right guy to take the baseball.”

Red Sox left-hander Chris Sale opens for the American League as he and Scherzer join 13 other pitchers who have started three All-Star Games. Sale is starting for the third consecutive time and is the third player to do that, following Lefty Gomez and Robin Roberts.

Each pitcher made his first All-Star start with a different team — Sale for the White Sox and Scherzer for the Tigers — and has now gotten the nod in back-to-back years. It’s the first time the same set of pitchers started the game two years in a row since 1939 and 1940; Paul Der- ringer and Red Ruffing.

When asked what each admired about the other, Scherzer said: “I think we said this last year.”

ROUNDUP: Hodgen finishes with tourney win

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to Yuba City (California) 12-7 and Tucson (Arizona) 9-2 on Saturday.

Roberts’ shutout leads Hodgen Distributing to victory

Hodgen Distributing Legion baseball team finished off its competition at the College Showcase Tournament in Centralia, Washington, with a 3-0 win over Lower Columbia on Sunday.

Cooper Roberts was the star of the day for Hodgen Distributing (20-15), as the right-handed pitcher threw a complete-game shut-out with seven strikeouts and only two hits allowed. Roberts also went 1-for-3

as a hitter with an RBI hit in the second inning.

Hodgen scored its first run in the bottom of the first inning when Ryan Stahl singled and brought home Ty Beers for a 1-0 lead. After Rudy Esparza doubled to lead off the second inning, Roberts hit his single to score Esparza for a 2-0 lead.

Finally in the fifth inning, Hodgen closed the scoring when Quinn Doherty came through with a single to left that scored Beers for the 3-0 advantage.

Esparza finished the game a perfect 3-for-3 at the plate for Hodgen, while Beers finished 2-for-3 with two runs scored and Curtis Simons doubled.

Mbappe leads France to cup

By GRAHAM DUNBAR
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Taking turns sliding across the rain-soaked turf holding the World Cup trophy tight, teenager Kylian Mbappe and the rest of France’s players acted like the youthful bunch they are.

Nothing, not a Pussy Riot protest nor a postgame downpour that soaked Russian President Vladimir Putin, was going to stop the party.

It carried on long after a thrilling 4-2 win over Croatia on Sunday. In the locker room with French President Emmanuel Macron striking poses with players, then a champagne-spraying, water-splashing interruption of the coach Didier Deschamps’ news conference.

“Sorry! They’re young and they’re happy,” said Deschamps, like a proud father.

Deschamps had good reason to indulge them. His team is mostly aged 25 or under and can return almost intact to defend their title in 2022 in Qatar.

“Our children are going to be very proud,” forward Antoine Griezmann said. “The World Cup, it’s a lot.”

The 19-year-old Mbappe became only the second teen after Pele to score in a World Cup final.

Mbappe had just shown his electrifying speed in the 52nd minute when play was held up by four protesters who ran onto the field. Russian punk band Pussy Riot later took credit for the incident — watched from the VIP seats



AP Photo/Matthias Schrader

France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris holds the trophy aloft after the final match between France and Croatia at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, July 15, 2018. France won 4-2.

by Putin, whose government once jailed members of the activist group. Charges were filed against the group Sunday, too.

Putin was later on the field to award medals to the players in a ceremony soon drenched in rain and joy. As thunder pealed and lightning cracked, FIFA president Gianni Infantino handed France captain Hugo Lloris the gold World Cup trophy.

Gold confetti stuck to the soaked Les Bleus as they paraded the trophy around the Luzhniki Stadium, a final act of an enthralling tournament in which Croatia reached its first final while powers Brazil, Germany and Argentina went

home early.

About 12 minutes after a protester gave Mbappe a double high-five on the field, Mbappe sent a right-footed shot from 25 yards (meters) past goalkeeper Danijel Subasic . The goal put France up 4-1, closing the door on Croatia who had been the bet- ter team until Mbappe took control.

The only other teen to score in a World Cup final was Pele, who was 17 when Brazil beat Sweden 5-2 in 1958.

Mbappe, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain in the French league, was born months after France won its only other World Cup title in 1998.

“I have a whole story to write,” Mbappe said. “This is just the beginning.”

Paul Pogba and Griezmann, France’s two other key cre- ative players, also scored. Pogba played a disciplined role in Russia, but his natu- ral joy was evident celebrat- ing his 18-yard (meter) shot, and leading the champagne shower for Deschamps.

But it was Mbappe who put the match out of reach with a furious passage of play in the second half. In the 59th, a run from Mbappe started a play that ended up with Pogba on the edge of the penalty area. With his second attempt, the midfielder curled his shot beyond Subasic.

HERMISTON: Brings home pride and confidence

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championship round. Others did great and we did not do our best. It happens in trap- shooting and the mental part of the sport is the last piece of the puzzle to a national title.”

St. Michael-Albertville High School in Minnesota won the team championship with a two-day score of 968 followed by Delano (Minne- sota) with 959, New Prague (Minnesota) with 956, Fen- ton (Michigan) with 951, St. Peter (Minnesota) with 951, Chapparral (Kansas) with 950 and Hermiston.

“The Midwest put a lot of resources into their trap teams,” Smith said, “and we are just beginning.”

Mabbott, Hiatt, Betz and Stocker also made it through Saturday’s individual qual- ifying round to join the top 400 competitors to go for a national championship on Sunday. Hiatt shot 98 targets and his reverse run tiebreak placed him in 36th, while Mabbott (97) ended in 61st, Stocker (90) ended in 29th, and Betz (91) in 323rd.

But the weekend showed just how fine the champi- onship line is in trapshooting, as Hermiston found out, as

well as the level of compe- tition there is in the country. Missing just two or three tar- gets doesn’t seem like a lot, but it can be the difference between winning a champi- onship or finishing in 61st place.

“We expected big scores,” Smith said. “I was very con- fident that it was going to take a perfect 200 to win the individual. ... Our kids broke several 98/100 this week and all of them broke big scores during the week. It is the mental part of the game we need to work on in order to be consistently 98 or better. “The top 400 cutoff

was 195/200. That is very impressive.”

But even though Herm- iston comes home without a championship trophy, the team does bring back a lot of pride, confidence and a list of things to improve upon for next time. Though being able to call Hermiston home to the No. 7 high school trap- shooting team in the United States is still a tremendous accomplishment.

“The community should be proud of these boys,” Smith said. “And our goal is to build community support and create opportunities for more of our youth.”

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division					MLB				
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Boston	68	30	.694	—					
New York	62	33	.653	4½					
Tampa Bay	49	47	.510	18					
Toronto	43	52	.453	23½					
Baltimore	28	69	.289	39½					
Central Division					W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	52	43	.547	—					
Minnesota	44	50	.468	7½					
Detroit	41	57	.418	12½					
Chicago	33	62	.347	19					
Kansas City	27	68	.284	25					
West Division					W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	64	35	.646	—					
Seattle	58	39	.598	5					
Oakland	55	42	.567	8					
Los Angeles	49	48	.505	14					
Texas	41	56	.423	22					

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division					W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	53	42	.558	—					
Atlanta	52	43	.552	½					
Washington	46	48	.500	5½					
Miami	41	57	.418	13½					
New York	39	55	.415	13½					
Central Division					W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	55	38	.591	—					
Milwaukee	55	43	.561	2½					
St. Louis	48	46	.511	7½					
Pittsburgh	48	49	.495	9					
Cincinnati	43	53	.448	13½					

West Division					W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	53	43	.552	—					
Arizona	53	42	.556	½					
Colorado	51	45	.531	2					
San Francisco	50	48	.510	4					
San Diego	40	59	.404	14½					

Tuesday's Games					MLB				
All-Star Game: NL vs. AL, at Washington, D.C., 5 p.m.									

NORTHWEST LEAGUE (Second Half) North Division					W	L	Pct.	GB	
Everett (Mariners)	3	1	.750	—					
Spokane (Rangers)	3	1	.750	—					
Vancouver (Blue Jays)	2	3	.400	1½					
Tri-City (Padres)	2	3	.400	1½					
South Division					W	L	Pct.	GB	
Boise (Rockies)	3	2	.600	—					
Hillsboro (D-Backs)	3	2	.600	—					
Eugene (Cubs)	3	3	.500	2½					
Salem-Keizer (Giants)	1	3	.250	2½					

Monday's Games					MLS				
Salem-Keizer at Eugene, late finish									
Boise 3, Hillsboro 2									
Spokane at Everett, late finish									
Tri-City 2, Vancouver 1									
Tuesday's Games					MLS				
Salem-Keizer at Eugene, 7:05 p.m.									
Boise at Hillsboro, 7:05 p.m.									
Spokane at Everett, 7:05 p.m.									
Vancouver at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.									

Soccer					WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE					W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta United FC	12	4	5	.413	24				
New York City FC	12	4	4	.400	24				
New York	11	5	2	.357	19				
Columbus	8	7	6	.304	25				
New England	7	5	7	.282	28				
Montreal	9	12	0	.273	35				
Philadelphia	7	9	3	.242	30				
Chicago	6	10	5	.233	41				

Orlando City	7	11	1	.227	42
Toronto FC	4	11	4	.163	38
D.C. United	3	7	5	.146	30

WESTERN CONFERENCE					W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
FC Dallas	11	3	5	.383	22					
Los Angeles FC	10	4	5	.355	28					
Sporting K.C.	9	5	6	.333	27					
Portland	8	3	6	.300	26					
Real Salt Lake	9	9	2	.299	23					
LA Galaxy	8	7	4	.283	30					
Houston	7	6	5	.266	36					
Vancouver	7	8	5	.260	30					
Minnesota United	7	11	1	.222	38					
Seattle	4	9	5	.171	16					
Colorado	4	11	4	.162	32					
San Jose	2	11	6	.129	29					

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.										
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Sunday, July 14					Sunday, July 15				
New York 3, Sporting Kansas City 2					Seattle 1, Atlanta United FC 1, tie				
New York City FC 2, Columbus 0					Portland 0, Los Angeles FC 0, tie				
LA Galaxy 3, New England 2									
Montreal 2, San Jose 0									
D.C. United 3, Vancouver 1									
FC Dallas 3, Chicago 1									
Minnesota United 3, Real Salt Lake 2									
Orlando City 2, Toronto FC 1									
Houston 0, Colorado 0, tie									

Tennis

WIMBLEDON

Saturday

Women's Singles

Final

Angelique Kerber (11), Germany, def. Serena Williams (25), United States, 6-3, 6-3.

Men's Doubles

Final

Mike Bryan, United States and Jack Sock (7), United States, def. Michael Venus, New Zealand and Raven Klaasen (13), South Africa, 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-3, 5-7, 7-5.

Women's Doubles

Final

Barbora Krejickova, Czech Republic and Katerina Siniaikova (3), Czech Republic, def. Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic and Nicole Pietrangeli (12), United States, 6-4, 4-6, 6-0.

Sunday

Men's Singles

Final

Novak Djokovic (12), Serbia, def. Kevin Anderson (8), South Africa, 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (3).

Mixed Doubles

Final

Alexander Peya (11), Austria and Nicole Melichar (11), United States, def. Jamie Murray, Britain and Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, 7-6 (1), 6-3.