

MARINERS: Reliant on winning close games

Continued from 1B

they’ve been one of the better defensive teams in the AL.

Their flaw is what has made them so good so far. They’ve been heavily reliant on being terrific in close games. Blowouts are foreign to Seattle and that lack of consistent offense could be a problem in the second half.

Edwin Diaz is on pace to challenge the single-season saves record with 36 at the break, but can’t be relied upon to be nearly perfect the rest of the way. Seattle’s 54 save opportunities are four more than anyone else in baseball.

In other words, not every late-game situation is filled with pressure for those teams, while Seattle has somehow thrived playing narrowly decided baseball. The Mariners have yet to lose when leading after eight innings. Going

back 80 years, the 1978 Giants hold the mark for the most one-run wins in a season with 42. Seattle already has 26.

But there remains the lingering worry of a Seattle collapse, which was amplified when the Mariners went 2-7 over their final nine games prior to the All-Star break. What was a seven- or eight-game lead in the wild card over Oakland is down to three and Seattle now trails Houston in the division by five games.

But that hasn’t ended the belief this is the year the drought ends.

“I think we have a group of guys that genuinely likes playing for each other,” Marco Gonzales said. “I think we have a lot of guys with a common goal in mind and that’s to win ball games and so I think that a lot of guys put the team before themselves.”

LEGION: Beers picks up six hits for Hodgen

Continued from 1B

ble from Sergio Rosales to score Ethin Randolph and Alexis Rosales to make it 6-3. Hermiston would get within one run at 7-6 in the fourth inning when Trevor Wagner scored on a Hodgen error.

But DeGeer helped Hodgen pad its lead some more in the sixth inning with a two-run double to help his team take a 10-6 advantage.

Beers led Hodgen’s offense with a 3-for-4 day and Field was 2-for-3 while DeGeer had three RBI.

Jordan Ramirez led Hermiston’s offense with a 2-for-4 game and two runs scored, while Alexis Rosales, Sergio Rosales had two RBI.

In the win over Baker, Hodgen Distributing trailed

4-1 as it came to bat in the bottom of the third inning. Roberts got a rally started with an RBI double to right field that scored Beers, and then Field followed with an RBI single, Sweek had an RBI single and Roberts scored on a passed ball to take a 5-4 lead.

Baker tied the game at five in the fourth inning and Hodgen waited until the fifth inning to strike again. With the bases loaded and two outs, Jimmy Jones came through with an RBI single and Beers followed with a two-run double to put Hodgen on top 8-5.

Beers led the team’s offense with his second three-hit game of the day, Sweek had two hits with a run and an RBI, and Field, Roberts and Jones each had a hit.

Kisner takes lead, Carnoustie holds its own at British Open

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland — Whether the turf is sun-baked or rain-soaked, brown or green, no matter if players attack with driver or proceed cautiously with irons, Carnoustie showed Thursday in the British Open that it can hold its own.

In what might be the easiest conditions of the week, Kevin Kisner took only 22 putts, one of them for a long eagle that sparked his 5-under 66. It gave him a one-shot lead and little more than bragging rights in the house of stars where he is staying.

One shot behind was a collection of players with



AP Photo/Jon Super

Kevin Kisner of the U.S. putts on the 18th green during the first round of the British Open Golf Championship.

little history in golf’s biggest events, including Erik Van Rooyen and Zander Lombard of South Africa. Tony Finau had eight birdies to offset his share of mistakes to join them at 67.

Of the top seven on the leaderboard, none has won a major.

Rory McIlroy and Jon Rahm powered their way to 69s, going for the green on short par 4s. Tiger Woods

took out his driver one time and shot 71, a round slowed by a short putt he missed and a pot bunker he couldn’t avoid.

But no one could go really low. The 31 players who managed to break par were separated by just four shots.

“The golf course is great for me,” Kisner said. “The conditions have been fine. Going forward, you never know what you’re going to have in Scotland. I know the rain is coming in tomorrow. I don’t think the rain is going to affect how the golf course is playing in one day, but I have to just keep doing what I’m doing. If I have 22 putts the next three days, I bet I’ll have a pretty good shot.”

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	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

Friday’s Games				
N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05 p.m.				
Baltimore at Toronto, 4:07 p.m.				
Boston at Detroit, 4:10 p.m.				
Miami at Tampa Bay, 4:10 p.m.				
Cleveland at Texas, 5:05 p.m.				
Minnesota at Kansas City, 5:15 p.m.				
San Francisco at Oakland, 6:35 p.m.				
Houston at L.A. Angels, 7:07 p.m.				
Chicago White Sox at Seattle, 7:10 p.m.				

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	53	42	.558	—
Atlanta	52	42	.553	½
Washington	48	48	.500	5½
Miami	41	57	.418	13½
New York	39	55	.415	13½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	56	38	.596	—
Milwaukee	55	43	.561	3
St. Louis	48	47	.505	8½
Pittsburgh	48	49	.495	9½
Cincinnati	43	53	.448	14
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	53	43	.552	—
Arizona	53	44	.546	½
Colorado	51	45	.531	2
San Francisco	50	48	.510	4
San Diego	40	59	.404	14½

Thursday’s Game				
Chicago Cubs 9, St. Louis 6				
Friday’s Games				
St. Louis at Chicago Cubs, 11:20 a.m.				
Atlanta at Washington, 4:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05 p.m.				
San Diego at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m.				
Miami at Tampa Bay, 4:10 p.m.				
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 4:10 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers at Milwaukee, 5:10 p.m.				
San Francisco at Oakland, 6:35 p.m.				
Colorado at Arizona, 6:40 p.m.				

MLB NORTHWEST LEAGUE				
North Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Everett (Mariners)	18	16	.529	—
Vancouver (Blue Jays)	17	17	.500	1
Tri-City (Padres)	16	18	.471	2
Spokane (Rangers)	15	19	.441	3
South Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Hillsboro (D-Backs)	22	12	.647	—
Boise (Rockies)	19	15	.559	3
Salem-Keizer (Giants)	17	17	.500	5
Eugene (Cubs)	12	22	.353	10

Thursday’s Games				
Everett 17, Boise 2				
Spokane 7, Salem-Keizer 5				
Vancouver 5, Hillsboro 0				
Eugene 7, Tri-City 3				
Friday’s Games				
Hillsboro at Vancouver, 1:05 p.m.				
Everett at Boise, 6:15 p.m.				
Spokane at Salem-Keizer, 6:35 p.m.				
Eugene at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.				

Soccer

MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta United FC	12	4	5	41	43	24
New York City FC	12	4	4	40	40	24
New York	11	5	2	35	37	19
Columbus	8	7	6	30	24	25
New England	7	6	7	28	33	30
Montreal	9	12	0	27	26	35
Philadelphia	7	9	3	24	25	30
Orlando City	6	10	5	23	33	41
Chicago	7	11	1	22	27	42
Toronto FC	4	11	4	16	30	38
D.C. United	3	7	5	14	26	30
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
FC Dallas	11	3	5	38	31	22
Los Angeles FC	10	4	5	35	41	28
Sporting K.C.	9	5	6	33	37	27

Portland	8	3	6	30	26	22
Real Salt Lake	9	9	2	29	29	37
LA Galaxy	8	7	4	28	34	30
Houston	7	6	5	26	36	26
Vancouver	7	8	5	26	30	40
Minnesota United	8	11	1	25	28	39
Seattle	4	9	5	17	16	23
Colorado	4	11	4	16	22	32
San Jose	2	11	6	12	29	39
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.						

Saturday’s Games				
D.C. United at Atlanta United FC, 12:30 p.m.				
Vancouver at Seattle, 1 p.m.				
LA Galaxy at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.				
Toronto FC at Chicago, 4 p.m.				
Orlando City at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.				
FC Dallas at Houston, 6 p.m.				
Colorado at Real Salt Lake, 7 p.m.				
Montreal at Portland, 8 p.m.				

Sunday’s Games				
Los Angeles FC at Minnesota United, 4 p.m.				

Basketball

WNBA EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	14	9	.609	—
Washington	13	10	.565	1
Connecticut	12	11	.522	2½
Chicago	7	15	.318	6½
New York	7	16	.304	7
Indiana	2	20	.091	11½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	16	6	.727	—
Phoenix	15	9	.625	2
Los Angeles	14	9	.609	2½
Dallas	14	9	.609	2½
Minnesota	12	10	.545	4
Las Vegas	11	13	.458	6

Thursday’s Games				
Atlanta 82, New York 68				
Dallas 90, Washington 81				
Las Vegas 85, Phoenix 82				
Friday’s Games				
Seattle at Connecticut, 4 p.m.				
Dallas at Chicago, 6 p.m.				
Indiana at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.				

Golf

PGA TOUR				
British Open				
Thursday				

Auto Racing

NASCAR CUP SERIES				
FOXWOODS 301				
Site: Loudon, New Hampshire.				
Schedule: Friday, practice, 9 a.m. (NBCSN), qualifying, 1:45 p.m. (NBCSN); Saturday, practice, 7:05 a.m. (CNBC), 9:35 a.m. (NBCSN); Sunday, race, 11 a.m. (NBCSN).				
Track: New Hampshire Motor Speedway (oval, 1.06 miles).				
Race distance: 318.46 miles, 301 laps.				
Last year: Denny Hamlin held off Kyle Larson and Martin Truex Jr.				
Last race: Truex won for the third time in six starts.				
Fast facts NASCAR spent the last two Tuesdays testing on Charlotte Motor Speedway’s road course configuration, or “Roval,” ahead of the Sept. 30 playoff race. The sessions proved a bit treacherous, with William Byron and Bubba Wallace crashing in the first turn on the 2.28-mile circuit. ...Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick and Truex, who’ve combined for 14 wins so far this season, remain 1-2-3 in the standings.				
Next race: Gander Outdoors 400, July 29, Pocono Raceway, Long Pond, Pennsylvania.				

EASTERN OREGON

marketplace

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