

CRESS: Ruger Piva wins bull riding crown and \$10K

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the road rodeoing because that’s the way you make money.”

Lowe takes bareback bronc riding buckle

Will Lowe has big dreams and aspirations as a cowboy.

He added to his prestige by winning the bare-back bronc riding buckle after edging Lane McGehee by less than two points in the aggregate standings. Lowe’s 88-point ride in the short go bumped him ahead for good with a 253.50.

“I really needed this,” Lowe said. “If I wanted to go back to the (National Finals Rodeo), then I needed to do really good here like I did. This is a game-changer for the year, and hopefully I can build off of the momentum and keep rolling.”

But his win didn’t happen without a touch of drama at the end. Lowe had to wait for Bill Tutor, the No. 3-ranked bareback rider in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world standings, to complete his ride. Tutor scored an 82.5-point ride to assure Lowe his third CFD career buckle.

Rudd wrestles his way to CFD title

Levi Rudd wasn’t sure if he had won.

He jumped off his horse, wrestled his steer to the ground and was trying to do the math in his head as he got off the ground and walked out of the arena.

“I knew (the steer) was going to leave and run, but he looked good on the ground,” Rudd said. “I knew I had a little bit of time to play with, but not much. I had to hustle and knock the steer down.

I was kind of worried. I thought I spent too much time.”

Turned out his time was the best of the bunch – 9.7 seconds – to give him a total time of 24 seconds to claim the steer wrestling buckle.

“This is the pinnacle so far for my career,” said Rudd, who earned more than \$21,000 – the most of any cowboy or cowgirl at CFD. “I’ve had a lot of good wins, but I’ve never had nothing like this. A few thousand dollars here and there, you feel good about it. You come here and you win as much money as you win here, it’s insane to come here and be able to do that.”

Piva holds on for bull riding crown

Ruger Piva woke up Sunday morning with a sore hip. It caused enough discomfort that he got it checked out.

“I really wanted to get it fixed and feeling better before I got on,” he said.

Injury or not, the Challis, Idaho, cowboy broke out of the chute and earned his first CFD bull riding buckle with an 85.5-point ride in the short go. He finished the rodeo with a total score of 252. Eli Vastbinder’s 89-point ride was the highest of the day.

“I had a great bull; I had the nicest bull to ride,” said Piva, who took home more than \$10,000 in winnings. “It just worked out I drew the right bulls, and I blame it all on luck, but it felt good.

“Coming in, I feel like I usually get better and better when it’s back-to-back (rides) like that. If I have a while to wait, I think about things too much. It was just fast and furious here.”

RACEWAY: Love racing in front of the large crowds

Continued from 1B

“We’ve always loved racing in Hermiston because the audiences are huge, and it’s always exciting,” Coe said. “It’s one of the last courses in the country because so many are closing down. Hermiston is great because it’s local, and it’s good family fun.”

Hermiston Raceway’s longevity could be attributed to Greg and Laura Walden of the Tri-Cities, who took over promotional duties earlier this year. They’ve since brought in drivers from as far away as the East Coast.

Erb, Coe and their sons race under the name Team 123. This year, Jeremy and Shade are sitting behind the wheel, while their fathers work in the pit crew to ensure every race runs smoothly.

“My earliest memories are of my dad’s races,” Shade said. “There’s nothing better than the smell of burning fuel and rubber, and the people at the tracks are incredible. I love all of it.”

Now into its fourth decade, the Monte Carlo has never run better. It looks something like the Interceptor that Mel Gibson drove in the Mad Max films — lean, mean, and jet black. A name hasn’t been officially agreed upon just yet. Shade likes “Black Betty” while Coe prefers “the Murder Carlo,” but Jeremy’s idea might be the most accurate: “The Big Black Bear.”

The engine ignites with just the press of a big red button to the right of the steering wheel, and the car roars to life — it sounds like more like a bear charging down the raceway than a car.

“It has a soul,” Coe said. “It’s absolutely amazing.”

The car is outfitted with logos from their local sponsors, including U.S.A. Subs, Diamond Eye Performance, Humbert Tires, Pendleton Floors, Marv’s

Glass Shop, and Eastern Oregon Contracting. A decal in memory of Carter, who has since passed away, can be seen behind the rear window.

Team 123 has enjoyed a successful season at the Hermiston Raceway this year, with Jeremy and Shade winning four of their eight races thus far.

“It’s been our greatest season yet,” Coe said.

Jeremy and Shade are currently in a three-way tie for first place, sitting atop the leaderboard with a total of 844 points.

The team has since become a fan favorite at Hermiston’s events — after a win, Jeremy and Shade will drive the Monte Carlo up by the grandstands and let kids take look. They also hand out Team 123 stickers and T-shirts.

“This year’s been a good experience for them,” Erb said. “It’s the boys’ turn to have fun.”

The team still has a handful of races left in the season, with events being held every other weekend at the Hermiston Raceway off Highway 395. Four more races are scheduled for this year, with the next one being held this Friday, August 3.

“You always get nervous before a race,” Coe said. “We want the boys to be safe and be able to load the car up in the trailer in one piece. It’s all fun and games until someone gets hurt.”

Jeremy and Shade hope to keep the family tradition alive for as long as possible.

“There’s nothing like it,” Jeremy said. “I want to do this until I can’t anymore.”

The burning passion for racing found within Team 123 has served as a strong foundation in keeping their families close.

“We’ve never been closer as a family unit,” Coe said. “We love what we do. It’s like getting the band back together.”

Paxton pounds Astros in return

By DOUG MILLER
Associated Press

SEATTLE — James Paxton excelled in his return from the disabled list, Nelson Cruz had a two-run double in the sixth inning and the Seattle Mariners beat the Houston Astros 2-0 on Monday night.

Astros starter Gerrit Cole (10-3) carried a no-hitter into the sixth, but Jean Segura ended it with a two-out infield single. Two batters later, Cruz lined his double down the left-field line.

Cole was perfect through four innings while locked in a duel with Paxton (9-4), who was making his first start since leaving a July 12 game in Anaheim because of lower back inflammation.

Cole retired the first 12 batters he faced, striking out six, until he hit Cruz with a pitch leading off the fifth. After Segura’s single, Denard Span hit a clean single to right-center, and Cruz hit a first-pitch slider inside third base. Segura scored easily, and the ball caromed off the protruding side wall, allowing Span to narrowly beat catcher Max Stassi’s tag after a strong throw by left fielder Marwin Gonzalez.

Paxton was brilliant for Seattle, scattering three hits — two of them infield singles — over seven innings. He struck out eight, did not walk a batter, and threw 59 of his 82 pitches for strikes.

Cole allowed four hits over 6 2/3 innings, striking out eight and walking two. Mariners reliever Alex



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Seattle Mariners starting pitcher James Paxton, left, smiles in the dugout with Dee Gordon after Paxton finished the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros, Seattle won 2-0.

Colome covered the eighth and closer Edwin Diaz pitched the ninth for his 40th save. The Mariners improved to 63-43 and cut the lead of Houston (67-41) in the AL West to three games.

FELIX’S FUTURE: Amid speculation that Felix Hernandez’s spot in Seattle’s rotation could be in jeopardy, Mariners manager Scott Servais said he and general manager Jerry Dipoto have decided to keep the veteran right-hander in the five-man rotation for the time being. Hernandez is 8-9 with a 5.58 ERA.

“That could change, but

as of now it’s where we’re at,” Servais said. “We’ll continue to talk about it. You just want to do what you can to give your club the best chance to win every time out.”

TRAINER’S ROOM: Astros: SS Carlos Correa, who has been on the disabled list since June 26 (lower back soreness), hit off a high-velocity machine and said it went well. He expects to play in minor league rehab games soon. ... 2B Jose Altuve, on the DL with right knee soreness since July 26, is in Houston to attend to family matters and is slated to rejoin the

team in Los Angeles over the weekend.

Mariners: 3B Kyle Seager went on paternity leave Monday, creating the roster spot for Paxton’s return. Servais said Austin Romine would play third in Seager’s absence, which could last another day or two. “He should enjoy the day with his family,” Servais said of Seager. “I’ll probably talk to Kyle tonight or tomorrow and see where he’s at family-wise.” ... The Mariners made one more move, calling up infielder Zach Vincej from Triple-A Tacoma and optioning first baseman Daniel Vogelbach.

TRADES: Mariners got Duke from the Minnesota Twins

Continued from 1B

several players and coaches before making the deal, and he clarified that the team policy does not apply to conduct that occurred when a player wasn’t in the Houston organization.

“Quite frankly, I believe you can have a zero-tolerance policy and also have an opportunity to give people second chances when they have made mistakes in the past, in other organizations,” Luhnow said. “That’s kind of how we put those two things

together.”

Houston’s closest competitors in the AL West, the Mariners, also added to their relief corps. They got Duke from the Minnesota Twins for a pair of minor leaguers and acquired Warren from the Yankees, also for two minor leaguers.

“Obviously a lot of teams are looking to add to the bullpen this time of year with the trade deadline coming up. I’m not surprised,” Mariners manager Scott Servais said. “It may not be the last thing we do.”

The 35-year-old Duke was 3-4 with a 3.62 ERA in 45 appearances for the Twins. The lefty has limited left-handed batters to a .237 average this season.

The 30-year-old Warren was 0-1 with a 2.70 ERA in 24 appearances for the Yankees in a season interrupted by a lengthy stay on the disabled list because of a strained back. He is eligible for free agency after the World Series.

New York, competing with Boston in the AL East and with Seattle in the wild-card race, also made a move

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	75	33	.694	—
New York	67	37	.644	6
Tampa Bay	53	53	.500	21
Toronto	48	57	.462	25½
Baltimore	32	74	.302	42
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	57	48	.543	—
Minnesota	49	56	.467	8
Detroit	45	62	.421	13
Chicago	37	69	.352	20
Kansas City	32	73	.305	25
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	67	41	.620	—
Seattle	63	43	.594	3
Oakland	62	46	.570	5
Los Angeles	54	53	.505	12½
Texas	45	62	.421	21½
Sunday's Games				
Boston 3, Minnesota 0				
N.Y. Yankees 6, Kansas City 3				
Baltimore 11, Tampa Bay 5				
Cleveland 8, Detroit 1				
Texas 4, Houston 3				
Toronto 7, Chicago White Sox 4				
Colorado 3, Oakland 2				
Seattle 8, L.A. Angels 5				
Monday's Games				
Boston 2, Philadelphia 1, 13 innings				
Minnesota 5, Cleveland 4				
Seattle 2, Houston 0				
Oakland 10, Toronto 1				
Texas at Arizona, late				
Tuesday's Games				
Baltimore (Ramirez 1-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 8-2), 4:05 p.m.				
Cincinnati (Bailey 1-7) at Detroit (Boyd 5-9), 4:10 p.m.				
L.A. Angels (Skaggs 8-6) at Tampa Bay (Staneik 1-3), 4:10 p.m.				
Philadelphia (Arrieta 8-6) at Boston (Pomeranz 1-4), 4:10 p.m.				
Cleveland (Bauer 9-8) at Minnesota (Gibson 5-7), 5:10 p.m.				
Kansas City (Duffy 6-9) at Chicago White Sox (Shields 4-12), 5:10 p.m.				
Texas (Colon 5-9) at Arizona (Godley 11-6), 6:40 p.m.				
Toronto (Gaviglio 2-3) at Oakland (Cahill 2-2), 7:05 p.m.				
Houston (Morton 11-2) at Seattle (Leake 8-6), 7:10 p.m.				
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	58	48	.547	—
Atlanta	56	47	.544	½
Washington	52	53	.495	5½
New York	44	59	.427	12½
Miami	46	62	.426	13
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	61	44	.581	—
Milwaukee	61	47	.565	1½
Pittsburgh	55	52	.514	7
St. Louis	54	52	.509	7½
Cincinnati	48	58	.453	13½
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	59	47	.557	—
Arizona	59	48	.551	½
Colorado	57	48	.543	1½
San Francisco	53	54	.495	6½
San Diego	42	66	.389	18
Sunday's Games				
Cincinnati 4, Philadelphia 0				
Miami 5, Washington 0				
Atlanta 4, L.A. Dodgers 1				
N.Y. Mets 1, Pittsburgh 0				
San Francisco 8, Milwaukee 5				
Arizona 5, San Diego 4				
Chicago Cubs 5, St. Louis 2				
Monday's Games				
Atlanta 5, Miami 3				
St. Louis 5, Colorado 4, 10 innings				
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, late				
San Francisco at San Diego, late				
Tuesday's Games				
San Francisco (Rodriguez 5-1) at San Diego (Richard 7-10), 1:10 p.m.				

Chicago Cubs (Lester 12-3) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 7-8), 4:05 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Matz 5-8) at Washington (Roark 4-12), 4:05 p.m.

Miami (Straily 4-4) at Atlanta (Allard 0-0), 4:35 p.m.

Colorado (Gray 8-7) at St. Louis (Flaherty 4-5), 5:15 p.m.

Milwaukee (Milley 1-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 4-3), 7:10 p.m.

Soccer

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta United FC14	4	5	47	48	26	
New York City FC13	5	4	43	47	23	
New York	13	6	2	41	42	22
Columbus	10	7	6	36	30	29
Montreal	9	13	1	28	29	39
New England	7	7	7	28	33	32
Philadelphia	8	10	3	27	29	34
Chicago	6	12	5	23	34	39
Orlando City	7	14	1	22	32	51
Toronto FC	6	11	4	22	35	39
D.C. United	4	9	5	17	29	35

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
FC Dallas	12	3	6	42	35	25
Los Angeles FC10	5	6	36	44	34	
LA Galaxy	10	7	5	35	43	36
Portland	9	3	7	34	30	25
Sporting KC	9	6	6	33	39	30
Real Salt Lake	9	9	4	31	31	39
Vancouver	8	9	5	29	34	44
Minnesota United	12	1	28	35	44	
Houston	7	8	6	27	39	32
Seattle	7	9	5	26	22	24
Colorado	4	12	5	17	25	36
San Jose	2	12	7	13	29	40

Saturday, July 28

Atlanta United FC 2, Montreal 1

Columbus 3, New York 2

Toronto FC 3, Chicago 0

D.C. United 2, Colorado 1

FC Dallas 3, Sporting Kansas City 2

Vancouver 4, Minnesota United 2

Real Salt Lake 0, San Jose 0, tie

Portland 2, Houston 1

Sunday, July 29

Seattle 3, New York City FC 1

LA Galaxy 4, Orlando City 3

Saturday, August 4

Toronto FC at Atlanta United FC, 1 p.m.

D.C. United at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.

New England at Orlando City, 4:30 p.m.

San Jose at FC Dallas, 5 p.m.

Seattle at Minnesota United, 5 p.m.

Vancouver at New York City FC, 5 p.m.

LA Galaxy at Colorado, 6 p.m.

Sporting Kansas City at Houston, 6 p.m.

Chicago at Real Salt Lake, 7 p.m.

Philadelphia at Portland, 8 p.m.

Sunday, August 5

Los Angeles FC at New York, 3 p.m.

Auto racing

NASCAR

Monster Energy Series

Gander Outdoors 400

Saturday at Pocono Raceway

Long Pond, Pa.

Lap length: 2.5 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (28) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 164.

2. (1) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 164.

3. (10) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 164.

4. (29) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 164.

5. (3) Erik Jones, Toyota, 164.

6. (38) William Byrd, Chevrolet, 164.

7. (6) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 164.

8. (9) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 164.

9. (7) Kurt Busch, Ford, 164.

10. (2) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 164.

11. (31) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 164.

12. (33) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 164.

13. (37) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 164.

14. (14) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 164.

15. (8) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 164.

16. (13) Michael Waltrip, Ford, 164.

17. (36) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 164.

Auto racing

NASCAR	
Monster Energy Series	
Outdoor 400	
Saturday at Pocono Raceway	
Long Pond, Pa.	
Lap length: 2.5 miles	
(Start position in parentheses)	
1. (28) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 164.	
2. (1) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 164.	
3. (10) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 164.	
4. (29) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 164.	
5. (3) Erik Jones, Toyota, 164.	
6. (38) William Byron, Chevrolet, 164.	
7. (6) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 164.	
8. (9) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 164.	
9. (7) Kurt Busch, Ford, 164.	
10. (2) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 164.	
11. (31) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 164.	
12. (33) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 164.	
13. (37) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 164.	
14. (14) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 164.	
15. (8) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 164.	
16. (13) Michael McDowell, Ford, 164.	
17. (35) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 164.	

18. (11) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 164.	
19. (16) David Ragan, Ford, 164.	
20. (5) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 164.	
21. (36) Paul Menard, Ford, 164.	
22. (17) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 164.	
23. (32) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 164.	
24. (15) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 164.	
25. (34) Aric Almirola, Ford, 164.	
26. (30) Joey Logano, Ford, 164.	
27. (18) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 164.	
28. (20) JJ Yeley, Toyota, 164.	
29. (19) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Toyota, 163.	
30. (40) Casey Kahne, Chevrolet, 162.	
31. (23) Kyle Weatherman, Chevrolet, 161.	
32. (25) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 161.	
33. (39) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet, Accident, 153.	
34. (24) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 148.	
35. (22) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 146.	
36. (27) Timmy Hill, Toyota, 142.	
37. (12) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, Transmission, 123.	
38. (4) Brad Keselowski, Ford, Accident, 121.	
39. (21) Corey LaJoie, Chevrolet, Accident, 95.	