

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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MLB

## Ohtani wins AL Rookie of the Year; Acuna takes NL honor

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Shohei Ohtani was rewarded for a Ruthian season at the plate — and on the mound.

Baseball's best two-way player since the Babe at the dawn of the live-ball era a century ago, Ohtani was an overwhelming pick for American League Rookie of the Year on Monday despite an elbow injury that stymied his switch from Japan to the major leagues and likely will prevent him from pitching next year.

"I was just kind of disappointed I wasn't able to play a full season," he said through a translator. "I feel like every player should be able to play a full year and help out the team. So that's something I need to work on, and that's going to be one of my goals, to stay healthy for a long full season and be able to (help) the team win from day one."

Atlanta Braves outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr. was a run-away choice for the NL honor over Washington outfielder Juan Soto in a contest between 20-year-olds.

A singular sensation who earned a chorus of praise for his



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

In this Sept. 21, 2018 file photo, Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani, of Japan, waits to stretch during batting practice before a baseball game.



AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko

MLB All-Star Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuna Jr. hits a ball to Japanese junior high school students during the MLB All Stars Baseball clinic as part of All-Stars Series baseball games at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo on Saturday.

dual success, Ohtani became the first player since Ruth in 1919 with 10 homers and four pitching wins in the same season.

He didn't play between June 4 and July 3 because of a sprained ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow, an injury the Angels were aware of when they signed him for a \$2,315,000 bonus last winter. The 24-year-old right-hander made just one more mound appearance, on Sept. 2, and three days later the team said a scan revealed additional damage and surgery was recommended.

Ohtani appeared in 22 more games as a hitter, had Tommy John surgery on Oct. 1 and hopes to be able to help the Angels at the plate next season. He probably won't take the mound again until 2020.

"Everything's going well," he said. "We're right on schedule, maybe even a little ahead."

Ohtani, who left the Nippon Ham Fighters to play in the major leagues, received 25 first-place votes and four seconds for 137 points from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. New York Yan-

See ROOKIES/2B

Prep roundup

## Hermiston finishes one win from state

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

At the start of the season, the Hermiston volleyball team was in over its head in the highly competitive Mid-Columbia Conference. By the end of the season, they were one win away from going to the state tournament.

The Bulldogs (8-12) swept Kamiakin, then dropped a three-set match to Southridge (18-10) on Saturday at the Region 5/8 tournament in Kennewick.

"I think most people thought coming into the league that we would be at the bottom," Hermiston coach Amy Dyck said. "No reason we can't believe we can fight for a berth to state. We far exceeded expectations. I am so proud of them."

Hermiston opened play Saturday with a 25-20, 26-24, 25-23 victory over Kamiakin in a loser-out match, beating the Braves for the first time this season.

Sophia Streeter led the attack with seven kills and three blocks, while Scout Reagan added seven kills and four digs.

"For us to take Kamiakin in three, and finish the match the way we wanted to play is huge for us," Dyck said. "It's a huge accomplishment for our seniors."

Tied at 6-6 in the first set, Ireland McDonough reeled off eight consecutive points for a 14-7 lead.

The Braves chipped away at the lead until they forged an 18-18 tie. Hermiston led 21-20 when McDonough took her turn at the service line for the second time.

Kamiaki's Delaney Frame hit the ball out of bounds, Avery Treadwell had a kill for the Bulldogs, and Kendall Dowdy and Reagan blocked Autumn Zilar for a 24-20 lead. A tip by Reagan found an empty hole on the other side of the net for the win.

Streeter had five of her kills in the second set, which was controlled by Kamiakin until the Bulldogs tied the score at 14-14.

The Braves led 9-3 early on, but another strong performance at the service line by McDonough, and a couple of points by Dowdy, had the Bulldogs in contention.

Tied at 22-22, Halee Stubbs gave the Bulldogs a 24-22 lead. The Braves tied the match at 24-all. A kill off a block gave Hermiston a 25-24 lead, and a kill by Dowdy gave the Bulldogs a 2-0 lead.

Hermiston took control of the third set after a 7-7 tie. The Bulldogs led 19-13, then had to hold off the Braves down the stretch, finishing the match with a kill by McDonough.

Dowdy handed out 18 assists, along with five kills and seven digs, while McDonough had four aces and 18 digs, and Stubbs 24 digs.

"I'm just waiting for them to finally believe they are capable of this," Dyck said. "We just have to go out, play our butts off and take care of our side of the net."

The Bulldogs did not fare as well against Southridge. The Suns swept Hermiston 25-8, 25-18, 25-12 to punch their ticket to state.

Hermiston started the match one player short as Reagan injured her left ankle in warmups and was unable to play. In the third set, Streeter injured her foot and had to come off the court.

"Having that injury right before the match, then Sophia going down, things were stacked against us," Dyck said. "It would have been easy to bail, but they didn't. That shows what type of program we are building, and what we will have in the future."

Streeter had seven kills before she went down. Stubbs added 11 digs, while Dowdy had 11 assists, McDonough four kills and eight digs, and Haylee Hamilton three aces and four digs.

Sophia Sumner led the Suns with 14 kills, while Ashlyn Dupuis added 10 kills and four aces, Bobbi Newton seven kills and four aces, and Kennedy Conrad 15 assists.

## Giants defeat 49ers



AP Photo/Tony Avelar

New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., center, scores in front of San Francisco 49ers cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon, right, and defensive back Antone Exum (38) during the second half of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif.

### Manning's late TD pass leads Giants past 49ers

By JOSH DUBOW  
AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Eli Manning threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Sterling Shepard with 53 seconds left and the New York Giants snapped a five-game losing streak by beating the San Francisco 49ers 27-23 on Monday night.

Manning threw two TD passes to Odell Beckham Jr., and then engineered the late game-winning drive with help from a pair of third-down penalties against Malcolm Smith and Ahkello Witherspoon.

Saquon Barkley then had a 23-yard catch to get the ball into the red zone and Manning connected with Shepard on third down to give the Giants (2-7) the win.

Matt Breida ran for 101 yards and scored two touchdowns for the 49ers (2-8), who were unable to win consecutive games under third-string quarterback Nick

Mullens. Breida's 23-yard run helped set up a 30-yard field goal by Robbie Gould that gave the Niners a 23-20 lead with 2:46 to play.

But the 49ers allowed the go-ahead score and couldn't pull it out at the end as Mullens' pass from the Giants 20 sailed out of the end zone on the final play.

Mullens wasn't nearly as sharp as he was in his NFL debut against the Raiders on Nov. 1 when he joined Hall of Famers Jim Kelly and Fran Tarkenton as the only players with at least 250 yards passing, three touchdowns and no interceptions in the first career game.

Mullens threw for 250 yards and had an 11-yard TD pass to Breida that made it 20-10 early in the third quarter. But Mullens also threw two interceptions with the first setting up a 10-yard TD pass from Manning to Beckham.

Those two connected again on a 20-yard score in the third quar-

ter as New York rallied from 10 points down to tie the game in the second half.

**Hard hit**

Niners receiver Marquise Goodwin was hit in the helmet by Alec Ogletree on a catch late in the third quarter and briefly left the game. On his first play back in to start the fourth quarter, a pass from Mullens deflected off Goodwin's hands for the second interception of the game by B.J. Goodson.

Goodwin was slow to get up after that play and went back into the medical tent for observation. Goodwin returned to the game later in the fourth quarter.

**Missed opportunity**

The Giants entered the game converting just 40 percent of their red zone trips into TDs. They missed a golden opportunity for one late in the first half. On a third down from the 3, the 49ers left Beckham unguarded in the slot, but Manning stuck with a run

play to Barkley that gained only 1 yard. New York settled for a field goal that tied the game at 10.

The Niners then drove down for a late field goal to take the lead at the break as the Giants trailed at the half for the eighth time this season.

**Playing for Paradise**

Niners GM John Lynch welcomed the high school football team from Paradise, a town destroyed by the wildfires in Butte County, about 175 miles north. Players and cheerleaders from the school were on the field for the national anthem. The air quality for the game was at an unhealthy level because of the fires.

The Air Quality Index was at 161 at kickoff, which is in the unhealthy zone, and smoke could be smelled throughout the stadium. The NFL had monitored the situation but the AQI never got near 200, the level where the game would have needed to be moved.

**Up next**

Giants: Host Tampa Bay on Sunday

49ers: Visit Tampa Bay on Nov. 25.

