



AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

Seattle Mariners right fielder Ichiro Suzuki warms up in the outfield before the second inning of a spring training baseball game against the Oakland Athletics on Friday in Peoria, Ariz.

MLB's spring training games underway in Florida, Arizona

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The sun came out in Arizona. Free agents played for their new teams. Ichiro Suzuki was back in uniform at age 45.

Baseball is back.

A day after the scheduled exhibition opener was rained out, baseball returned to the ballparks of Florida and Arizona on Friday with the first spring training games.

The World Series champion Boston Red Sox began their hoped-for journey to a second straight title with a 6-0 victory over Northeastern University. The Phillies — still without Bryce Harper, at least for now — beat Tampa Bay 3-2. The Tigers topped Southeastern University of Florida 12-2. Suzuki started what may be his final spring training with a two-run, two-out single in the third inning of the Seattle Mariners' 8-1 win over the Oakland Athletics.

"It's a good start to spring training," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said after dispatching the Huskies in the regularly scheduled seven innings in a tight 1 hour, 45 minutes, a day before the Grapefruit League opener against the New York Yankees. "It will be good to start playing" against major league teams.

Spring training has long been seen as the unofficial end to winter, but that was

postponed when the Mariners and Athletics were rained out of their opener on Thursday. The teams, which got the early start in order to prepare for the regular season opener in Japan — were back at it on Friday.

Ichiro prepared with Mariners for his 19th major league season (to go with nine in Japan). Batting seventh and playing left field, Suzuki fouled out in the second inning against Liam Hendriks and singled in the third off left-hander Ryan Buchter. Suzuki then was replaced by a pinch runner. He did not have any chances in the field.

"Of course you have nerves, but this was one I hadn't experienced before, the nerves that I had today," Suzuki said through an interpreter. "I'm just glad the first day's out of the way."

Many other big name stars sat out as they eased into the daily grind.

Manny Machado slipped on a Padres uniform after signing his \$300 million, 10-year contract; San Diego opens its spring training schedule on Saturday.

Harper was hoping for a similar deal, with the Phillies the favorites to sign him. But he remained among more than three dozen free agents who had not yet been signed, leading players to accuse teams of possible collusion. (The owners say they simply are making judgments

based on analytics.)

Here's a look around the ballparks on Friday:

—Bobby Dalbec hit a fly ball off the top of the fence in center field to give Boston the lead, and Jagger Rusconi and Tyler Dearden tripled for the Red Sox. Mike Shawaryn pitched two scoreless innings, striking out two, and Darwinzon Hernandez fanned three in two innings for Boston, which will face the New York Yankees in the Grapefruit League opener on Saturday.

—In Charlotte, Florida, Scott Kingery tripled and scored on a throwing error by shortstop Willy Adames, and Maikel Franco homered for the Phillies. Jason Coats homered to make it 3-2 in the sixth inning, three Philadelphia relievers pitched a scoreless inning of relief to close it out.

—In Lakeland, Florida, Jake Rogers, Daniel Piner and Brandon Dixon homered, and Kyle Funkhouser struck out four in two innings for the Tigers.

The Red Sox held a moment of silence before the game for *Boston Globe* sports writer Nick Cafardo, who covered the team for most of three decades before he died on Thursday after collapsing at the ballpark. The team placed a dozen red roses at Cafardo's seat in the press box; the Baltimore Orioles' beat writers and media-relations staff sent five dozen donuts, along

with their condolences.

In place of his usual pre-game question and answer session with reporters, manager Alex Cora spoke for more than seven minutes about Cafardo and chose not to discuss any other topics.

"That's why I don't get caught up in the whole game. It's just a game, bro," Cora said. "When you leave, that's real. Life is real. Everything you have to do as a parent, as a husband, as a son, that's real. This is just a game, man. We get caught up on the whole wins and losses and rivalries and whatever. Life is real, man."

Cora said he addressed the team in the morning and told them to enjoy the game — but understand it's just a game. He recalled how Cafardo enjoyed Game 3 of last fall's World Series, an 18-inning, 7-hour, 20-minute Los Angeles Dodgers victory.

"He loved the game," Cora said. "Let's just celebrate his life. Like I told the guys, just go out there and have a great day. ... Let's have a blast on the field."

Up the Florida coast in Tampa, Yankees manager Aaron Boone also opened his media session by remembering Cafardo.

"One of the great things about our game is the relationships that you get to forge," he said. "That's one of those that rocks our baseball community. ... It's certainly a tough day in our baseball family."

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

Burke helps UCLA rally from 22-down to stun No. 2 Oregon

EUGENE (AP) — Kennedy Burke had a career-high 29 points and UCLA came back from a 22-point deficit to knock off No. 2 Oregon 74-69 on Friday night.

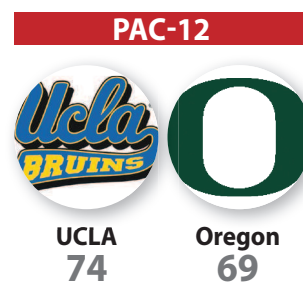
Burke was 12 of 17 from the field and had seven rebounds for the Bruins (17-10, 10-5 Pac-12), who won for the eighth time in the last nine games. Japreece Dean added 14 points and Michael Onyenwere had 12.

UCLA outscored the Ducks 36-14 over a large portion of the second half to lead 68-60. Oregon pulled to within 70-69 on Sabrina Ionescu's 3-pointer with 34 seconds left, but the Bruins scored the last four points at the foul line.

Erin Boley led the Ducks (24-3, 13-2) with 20 points, Ionescu had 18 and Maite Cazorla 13. Oregon was playing without junior forward Ruthy Hebard, who injured her right knee in Monday night's 67-62 loss at No. 12 Oregon State.

It was the first back-to-back losses for the Ducks since they dropped three in a row to end the 2016-17 season, a span of 71 games.

Oregon made 10 of its first 15 shots to lead



23-12 after one quarter. The lead grew to 22 points behind 13 by Boley before the Bruins scored the last seven points of the first half to trail 42-27.

Big picture

UCLA gets its first win of the season over a Top 10 team with an impressive comeback from a sluggish first half. ... The Bruins also broke a five-game losing streak against the Ducks.

Oregon struggled to cope without the inside presence of star forward Hebard and her 69.0 percent shooting, second in the nation, against a projected NCAA Tournament team. ... The Ducks need one win to clinch at least a share of their second straight Pac-12 regular-season title.

Up next

UCLA: visits Oregon State on Sunday.

Oregon: hosts USC on Sunday.

No. 12 Oregon St. women beat USC

CORVALLIS (AP) — Mikayla Pivec had 18 points and eight rebounds and Oregon State used a late run to beat Southern California 68-61 on Friday night.

Pivec's jumper with 5:15 left in the fourth quarter sparked a 16-2 run that turned a seven-point deficit into a seven-point lead with 22 seconds to go.

Aleah Goodman and Destiny Slocum highlighted the run with back-to-back 3-pointers — Goodman giving the Beavers (22-5, 12-3 Pac-12) the lead for good at 61-59 and Slocum pushing the lead to five with 32 seconds left.

Slocum scored 16 points, Joanna Grymek



had 13 points and nine rebounds, and Goodman added 11 points for Oregon State.

Aliyah Mazyck scored 25 points with five 3-pointers for USC (15-11, 5-10). Kayla Overbeck added 14 points and Asiah Jones had 10.

The Trojans scored the first 16 points of the game, but Oregon State recovered by halftime to trail 27-26.

UCLA hangs on to beat Oregon State

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — UCLA won its first three games under interim coach Murry Bartow with Chris Smith in the starting lineup. Having lost four of its last five, Bartow decided to put Smith back in the rotation.

The move paid off.

Smith scored the go-ahead basket with 21 seconds left on a desperate bank shot after UCLA blew a 12-point second-half lead, and the Bruins hung on for a 68-67 victory over Oregon State on Thursday night.

"We wanted a more skilled guy at the 4," Bartow said. "We just thought we needed a little bit of a change, not just in the starting lineup but who we were playing."

Tres Tinkle airballed a potential game-winning 3-pointer with 1.8 seconds to go for the Beavers, who didn't take their first lead until 1:26 remaining in the game.

"We were just kind of out of sorts," Stephen Thompson Jr. said of Oregon State's last play. "We weren't in the right positions."

Moses Brown had 14



AP Photo/Kelvin Kuo

UCLA guard Jaylen Hands, left, loses the ball as Oregon State forwards Warren Washington, center, and Tres Tinkle defend during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Los Angeles on Thursday.

points and 11 rebounds for the Bruins (14-13, 7-7 Pac-12), who got back to .500 in league play with a handful of regular-season games remaining.

"This season has been like a war of attrition," Smith said. "We've been down more than we've been up. It really feels good to get a win. Everybody knows in the back of their head we've got a lot to do. We got

to get better."

Jaylen Hands added 12 points, but missed a pair of free throws in the final second with UCLA clinging to a one-point lead.

Thompson scored 21 points and Tinkle added 19 for Oregon State (16-9, 8-5), which fell into a second-place tie with idle Arizona State and Utah in the league standings. The Beavers' two-game winning streak ended.

USC sails past Oregon, 66-49

By STEVE DILBECK
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It was a rare sighting Thursday, snow falling along the Los Angeles foothills. In downtown there was a much more common occurrence — Bennie Boatwright knocking down 3s.

The USC senior scored 20 points, all but two coming from beyond the 3-point line, to lead the Trojans to a 66-49 victory over Oregon.

"Bennie really killed us," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "Him shooting the ball was the difference. Those six 3s really gave them separation."

Boatwright has been particularly hot of late from beyond the arc. In his last five games, he has made 24 of 39 3-pointers (61.5 percent).

"Bennie is shooting as well as he is in his career," USC coach Andy Enfield said. "His all-around game is good. He's feeling it. To beat Oregon, you need players to step up like that. It was fun to watch."



AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu

Southern California's Bennie Boatwright, right, goes up while defended by Oregon's Kenny Wooten during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game on Thursday in Los Angeles.

Center Nick Rakocevic added 17 points on 8-of-11 shooting and, like Boatwright, had six rebounds.

The Trojans (15-12, 8-6 Pac-12) held the Ducks (15-11, 6-7) to 33.3 percent shooting.

The Ducks never could crack USC's zone defense, going long stretches where they struggled to find the

basket. Oregon went 1 for 12 in one stretch in the second half when the Trojans pushed their lead to 16 points (60-44).

The Ducks went just 4 of 21 from the 3-point line.

"The ball movement wasn't there," Altman said. "We did have a lot of good looks, but we missed them and then started pressing."

USC, meanwhile, shot 62.5 percent in the second half.

The victory reversed an 81-60 USC loss at Oregon last month.

"They beat us pretty bad when we played up there, so it was a good game for us to get our revenge here and take care of business," Rakocevic said. "We had something to prove tonight. This was a statement game. We played really well, defended really well."

While the Ducks struggled to shoot from outside, they did not have any more success under the basket. USC outscored Oregon 30-18 in the paint and 14-7 on second-chance points.