

2021 MLB All-Star Game to be played in Atlanta

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Major League Baseball's 2021 All-Star Game will be played at Atlanta in what could be the first national showcase for SunTrust Park since the stadium opened in 2017.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred made the announcement before the Braves played the Washington Nationals on Wednesday night.

"The facility here, including SunTrust stadium and the Battery, is the best in baseball," Manfred said.

The Braves are the landlord for restaurants, bars, a concert venue, a hotel, apartments and office buildings in the Battery mixed-use development.

Manfred was joined by some of the Braves' most prominent former players, a group that included Hall of Famers Hank Aaron, Chipper Jones, Phil Niekro, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz. Also attending the



Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred announced Wednesday that Atlanta will host the 2021 All-Star Game.

announcement were Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms. The All-Star Game will join a recent string of major

sports events in Atlanta, including the MLS Cup, college football championship and this year's Super Bowl. The 2020 Final Four also will be in Atlanta.

"The Super Bowl got raves," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "I think this will. I mean, it's just an unbelievable venue to have the game's best out here playing."

This will be the third All-Star Game in Atlanta. The 1972 game was played at a ballpark best known as Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. The 2000 game was at Turner Field, the former 1996 Olympic Stadium that was the Braves' home from 1997-2016.

"It's about time that we're back," Manfred said.

Jones recalled his pride in playing in the 2000 game. "In 2000 I was one of the chosen lucky few to be able to run out on my home baseball field and to be able to represent my team and my league in the All-Star Game," Jones said

The Braves' move to the suburban SunTrust Park in Cobb County drew criticism from some fans accustomed to the team's downtown location since 1966. Braves chairman Terry McGuirk noted All-Star week events will include such downtown sites as Centennial Park.

"I think I'm most proud how this event will show how unified the city of Atlanta is," McGuirk said.

The National League will be host six times in seven years. This year's All-Star Game is July 9 at Cleveland's Progressive Field and next year's game is at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

The Braves made an unsuccessful bid for the 2020 game. At the time, the Braves also expressed their interest in 2021.

On April 16, Philadelphia was announced as the site of the 2026 game to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Oregon parts ways with baseball coach George Horton

EUGENE (AP) — Oregon and longtime baseball coach George Horton have mutually agreed to part after 11 seasons at the school.

The school announced the sides agreed not to exercise a one-year contract option for the 2020 season.

Horton says it was "not an easy decision but I believe it to be the best at

this point of my career." Horton, 65, arrived in Eugene in 2007 and was charged with restarting the Ducks' baseball program two years later after more than two decades when the program was dormant. He went 373-278-1 in his 11 seasons in charge, leading the Ducks to five NCAA regionals and one super regional appearance.

But Oregon struggled in recent years. Oregon finished no higher than eighth in the Pac-12 standings in the past four seasons and had a losing record in conference play in each year.

Horton arrived at Oregon after serving as the head coach at Cal State Fullerton, where he led the Titans to a national title in 2004.



Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (3) runs a drill during an NFL football practice on Wednesday in Renton, Wash.

After uncertainty, K.J. Wright happy to still be in Seattle

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — At this time a year ago, K.J. Wright was entering a contract year with no certainty he would stay with the only team he'd ever played for.

Then he got hurt during preseason. And needed surgery. And had a setback, and got to the point of resigning himself to the idea his career with the Seattle Seahawks was over once last season ended.

"As soon as I knew I had to have surgery I was like, 'Dang, this is not very good.' Contract year, surgery, five games, all those signs say, 'Thank you for your services but we've got to move on,'" Wright said.

But Wright is still in Seattle. He's healthy and taking part in offseason workouts and the happy recipient of a two-year contract that likely means Wright will play his entire career with one team.

For the longest-tenured Seahawks player currently on the roster, and one of the few remaining holdovers from its Super

Bowl-winning team, it's a meaningful opportunity.

"I didn't see it happening. I thought I was going to be in a different color jersey. But they love me here," Wright said on Wednesday.

"I'm glad they love me and they know what I bring to the table. I'm still a hell of a linebacker and can make plays all over the field. You all saw the last few games and found a way to make me happy. Everything is good."

Wright's future was uncertain after playing in just five games last season due to a knee injury. Before the injury troubles of 2018, Wright was incredibly durable for Seattle having started 63 of the previous 64 regular-season games. Wright, who will turn 30 years old this summer, was selected to the Pro Bowl in 2016 when he had 124 tackles and four sacks.

Wright said at the end of last season he intended to test the free agent market to see where his value stood. But he also had indicated a desire to play his entire career in one place and continue to team

with middle linebacker Bobby Wagner.

"What I went through last year really put things in perspective for me, to approach every game, every practice with gratitude because you just never know when something may happen and it could be your last play," Wright said. "I'm really thankful."

Wright is also providing advice for Wagner as he goes through his own contract situation. Wagner has been present for Seattle's entire offseason program, but is not participating because he is entering the final season of his contract, a move his longtime teammate supports.

Wright said he believes attending the offseason program and participating in training camp last year entering a contract year — rather than holding out — helped when it came time for Seattle to offer him a new deal.

"I think it played a lot into it," he said. "You have a guy who stayed true to himself, was there for the team. At the end of the day it doesn't really matter. It helps you."

Leal: Midfielder led Hermiston

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play my game and do the best I can."

With his small size, Leal said he would get pushed around and was an easy target at times, but he learned to use his strengths.

"This year, people noticed I was fast," he said. "I didn't realize I was that explosive. I wish I was taller to win more headers, I really had to jump for some of those."

When Walla Walla plays Blue Mountain in NWAC East action, Leal could face Hermiston teammate Juan Carlos Navarrete in the Timberwolves' goal.

"He was my protector back there," Leal said. "He's already throwing a little shade. We will let the score talk."



Staff photo by Annie Fowler

Hermiston midfielder Emilio Leal signed a letter of intent on Wednesday to play soccer for Walla Walla Community College.

Leal, who will be the first in his family to go to college, plans to major in agriculture/business. He plans to put that knowledge to use

as a rancher.

He already owns 16 head of cattle. He breeds them, sells them, and eats them.

"I like steak," he said.

Buckaroos fill out IMC all-league softball teams

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

Nine Buckaroos received top Intermountain Conference honors on Wednesday.

Senior Kila Solomon was one of two catchers named to the IMC all-league first team, along with Hood River Valley junior Makenzie Chambers.

Senior Aspen Garton and junior Carissa Cooley made the first team as infielders, and junior

Maria Lillienthal received first-team honors as an outfielder.

Freshman pitcher Sauren Garton and senior Kirah McGlothlin were named to the second team, and sophomore pitcher Kylie Parsons, junior infielder Sami Spriet, and senior outfielder Elli Nirschl were honorable mentions.

Chambers was awarded the IMC Player of the Year title, and Pitcher of the Year went to Ridgeview

junior Alicie Frost. The Ravens were also awarded the Coaching Staff of the Year honor, led by Sandy Fischer.

The Bucks were the No. 3 seed in the IMC, going 9-6 in conference action.

They missed out on a chance to defend last year's 5A state title, falling to West Albany in the quarterfinals.

They finished the 2018-19 season with a 17-10 overall record.

SCOREBOARD

NBA PLAYOFF GLANCE				
FINALS				
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)				
Golden State vs. Toronto				
Thursday, May 30: Golden State at Toronto, 6 p.m.				
Sunday, June 2: Golden State at Toronto, 5 p.m.				
Wednesday, June 5: Toronto at Golden State, 6 p.m.				
Friday, June 7: Toronto at Golden State, 6 p.m.				
x-Monday, June 10: Golden State at Toronto, 6 p.m.				
x-Thursday, June 13: Toronto at Golden State, 6 p.m.				
x-Sunday, June 16: Golden State at Toronto, 5 p.m.				

NHL PLAYOFF GLANCE				
STANLEY CUP FINALS				
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)				
Boston 1, St. Louis 1				
Monday, May 27: Boston 4, St. Louis 2				
Wednesday, May 29: St. Louis 3, Boston 2, OT				
Saturday, June 1: Boston at St. Louis, 5 p.m.				
Monday, June 3: Boston at St. Louis, 5 p.m.				
Thursday, June 6: St. Louis at Boston, 5 p.m.				
x-Sunday, June 9: Boston at St. Louis, 5 p.m.				
x-Wednesday, June 12: St. Louis at Boston, 5 p.m.				

MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	32	22	.593	—
Atlanta	30	26	.536	3
New York	27	27	.500	5
Washington	24	32	.429	9

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	36	19	.655	—