

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES



AP Photo/Nati Harnik

Vanderbilt pitcher Kumar Rocker walks off the mound in the second inning against Michigan in Game 2 of the NCAA College World Series baseball finals on Tuesday in Omaha, Neb.

Vandy rides Rocker to 4-1 win, forces a Game 3 vs. Michigan

By ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

Philip Clarke's ninth homer, against Angelo Smith, made it 4-0.

Rocker worked around two singles, two walks and two errors through six shutout innings. Jack Blomgren singled against him leading off the seventh and a balk put him on second. Rocker struck out Joe Donovan and then left to an ovation from the fans behind the Vanderbilt dugout.

Ako Thomas greeted Tyler Brown with an RBI single for the Wolverines' only run.

Rocker is 10-1 in his last 11 starts, and he's 4-0 in the NCAA Tournament with a 0.96 ERA, 44 strikeouts, five walks in 28 innings.

Other than Jeff Criswell, a starter until the postseason, Michigan's bullpen hadn't been tested until Tuesday. The Wolverines used only three pitchers in winning their first four CWS games, striking out 33, walking seven and posting a 2.25 ERA through 36 innings.

Michigan lost leadoff man and designated hitter Jordan Nwogu to a pulled left quad in the third inning. He was hurt running to first on a grounder and had to be helped off the field.

Dominic Clemente, a .200 hitter who hasn't had a hit since May 4, took Nwogu's place and struck out looking in his two at-bats.

OMAHA, Neb. — Kumar Rocker struck out 11 while pitching 6 1/3 innings of three-hit ball, and Vanderbilt got to Michigan's shaky bullpen in a 4-1 win in Game 2 of the College World Series finals Tuesday night.

The Commodores (58-12) forced a winner-take-all Game 3 on Wednesday night at TD Ameritrade Park. Michigan is playing for its first national title since 1962, and Vanderbilt is trying for its first since 2014.

Rocker (12-5) set the tone in another in a line of strong performances. Ten of the 6-foot-4, 255-pound freshman's first 11 pitches were strikes.

Michigan (50-21) failed to score in the opening inning for the first time in its five CWS games and five of the first six batters struck out.

Redshirt freshman Isaiah Paige (4-1), pitching for the first time since June 8 in regionals, drew the start for Michigan and worked four-plus innings.

The problems for the Wolverines started after Paige departed. The Commodores picked up an unearned run in the fifth and then Jack Weisenberger, who relieved Benjamin Keizer with two runners on in the sixth, let in two runs on wild pitches to back-to-back batters.



AP Photo/Nick Wass

Baltimore Orioles first-round draft pick Adley Rutschman, right, signs for fans during batting practice before a baseball game against the San Diego Padres on Tuesday in Baltimore.

MLB: Orioles introduce No. 1 pick Rutschman

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to the home crowd on Tuesday night. After that, the plan is for him to take a break to accept some of the many awards he garnered this season, then play in the Gulf Coast League before joining short season Class A Aberdeen.

"I always believe, when in doubt, start players at the lower-level league because it's very easy to transfer them if they're performing well," Elias said. "We took a lot of college players and almost all of them will be starting there."

Rutschman has already played plenty of baseball this season, but he can't wait to get started with the next phase of his career.

"It's always been a goal of mine to be in this position," Rutschman said. "For me, it's always been

about the process of getting there. So, now it's about setting new goals. Now that I'm here, I am just excited about the opportunity and I'm truly humbled to be a part of the building process that is going on right now."

Rutschman is a pivotal piece of the rebuilding puzzle that Elias is trying to put together, but the Golden Spikes Award winner can't turn the franchise around alone.

"We're trying to bring in talent from every direction possible," Elias said. "Obviously having the No. 1 pick in the draft is a special opportunity to do that. The important thing for us is, this doesn't start and end here. But to have a player of his caliber, that I think is not necessarily available every year in the draft, is big for us."

Legion: Hodgen Distributing splits with the Wild

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Shelley loaded the bases with a single, allowing him to knot the score at 3-3 off Kyle Field's shallow ground ball to shortstop.

Lance Wolf struck out to close the inning before Pendleton could pull ahead.

Buckaroo fans in attendance for Tuesday's twin bill saw a familiar face on Pendleton's mound in the first four innings of game one — the recently graduated Chris Large. Large may have coughed up seven runs off nine hits, but tallied four strikeouts, including two back-to-back to keep Mt. Spokane runless in the top of the second.

The Wild were also held to just one run in the following inning, where Swanson tagged a runner out at home to keep Jon Busch's single from driving in two runs. Large got another strikeout to finalize the inning.

Beers' homer came on a 3-1 pitch in the bottom of the fourth, rocketing over the center field fence, allowing Pendleton to catch up to Mt. Spokane, 7-5.

"It just kept us close," Beers said. "We needed to get back up top. (Mt. Spokane's) pitching was spot-on today. You had to fight for those hits."

With Hodgen Distributing trailing 8-7 in the bottom of the seventh and two outs

on the board, Cooper Roberts sent a 2-0 pitch flying into right field that scored Beers and Nat Hunsaker to clinch a narrow walk-off win.

"They're tough to hit against, to be perfectly honest," Beers said of the Wild. "It's battling. It's staying focused and relaxed."

Beers went 3-for-5 with two runs and three RBIs in game one. Curtis Simons followed, scoring two runs and an RBI off a 1-for-2 performance.

But Mt. Spokane wouldn't allow a repeat, jumping out to an 8-4 advantage by the end of the third inning in game two.

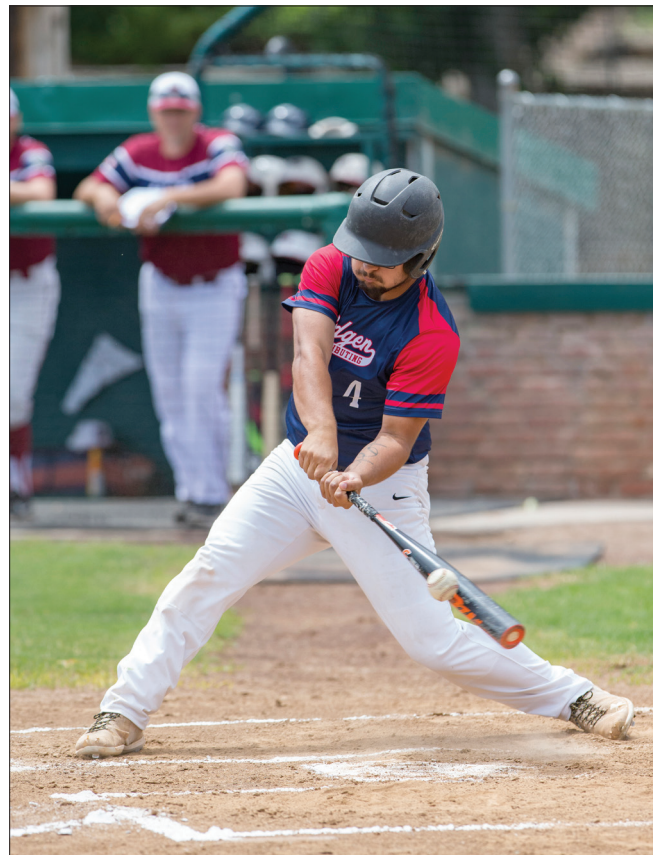
Swanson and Beers each tackled two innings on Pendleton's hill, but neither could tame the Wild — Swanson gave up five runs and two walks, and Beers three runs and three walks.

Field put in 2 1/2 innings of relief, but gave up seven more runs before Tucker Zander took over.

"It was our pitching," Armstrong said of Mt. Spokane's early lead. "If you can't throw strikes, it's going to be a tough game."

Beers was able to tie things up at 2-2 in the bottom of the first with his second homer that soared over right field, but the Wild was quick to bury Pendleton in response.

By the game's end, the Wild collected 14 hits while Pendleton was close behind with 13, but their seven errors



Staff photo by Benjamin Lonergan

Hodgen Distributing's first baseman Ty Beers makes contact with the ball during a doubleheader against Mt. Spokane Tuesday afternoon.

made it difficult to come back. Beers was perfect at the plate, going 4-for-4 with three runs and two RBIs to lead Pendleton once again, but the Wild brought a selection of solid hitters to stay ahead.

Jaxon Davis went 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs, Jose Renteria scored a run and drove in three more, and Zane Baker put up two runs

and an RBI. "They're just a great team," Armstrong said of Mt. Spokane. "They have plenty of great hitters in their lineup."

Up next, Hodgen Distributing will hit the road to Walla Walla for a four-day tourney. Their first game is at Borleske Stadium against the Washington Rush on Thursday at 8 p.m.

Mariners: Vogelbach's homer lifts Mariners to win

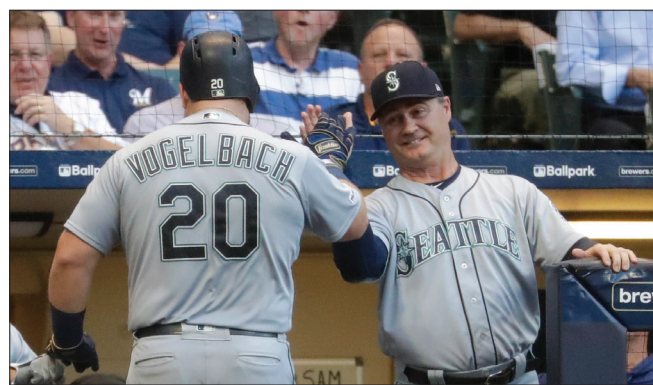
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UP NEXT

got to the point where we have to do something a little more to give him a chance to get past the pain," manager Craig Counsell said. "It has been affecting him, there's no question about it." Cain, who sat out Sunday's game against Cincinnati before Milwaukee's off-day on Monday, likely will miss Wednesday's game against Seattle. Ben Gamel took Cain's spot in the lineup.

Mariners: Seattle will use a yet-to-be announced opening pitcher before turning to Wade LeBlanc (4-2, 5.44 ERA). LeBlanc is 4-1 with a 3.82 ERA in 13 career appearances against Milwaukee.

Brewers: Adrian Houser (2-1, 2.27) will make his third start of the season, replacing struggling Jimmy Nelson in the rotation. Houser has made 14 relief appearances this season.



AP Photo/Morry Gash

Seattle Mariners' Daniel Vogelbach is congratulated by manager Scott Servais after hitting a home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers Tuesday in Milwaukee.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

NCAA COLLEGE WORLD SERIES GLANCE

At TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, Neb.
All Times PDT
Championship Series (Best-of-3)
Michigan 7, Vanderbilt 4
Vanderbilt 4, Michigan 1, series tied 1-1
Wednesday, June 26: Michigan (49-21) vs. Vanderbilt (58-12), 4 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	51	28	.646	—
Tampa Bay	45	34	.570	6
Boston	44	37	.543	8
Toronto	29	51	.363	22 1/2
Baltimore	22	57	.278	29
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	51	27	.654	—
Cleveland	43	36	.544	8 1/2
Chicago	36	41	.468	14 1/2
Detroit	26	48	.351	23
Kansas City	28	52	.350	24
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	50	30	.625	—
Texas	43	36	.544	6 1/2
Oakland	42	38	.525	8
Los Angeles	39	40	.494	10 1/2
Seattle	36	47	.434	15 1/2

Tuesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 3
San Diego 8, Baltimore 3
Boston 6, Chicago White Sox 3
Kansas City 8, Cleveland 6
Texas 5, Detroit 3
Houston 5, Pittsburgh 1
Minnesota 9, Tampa Bay 4
Seattle 8, Milwaukee 3
Oakland 7, St. Louis 3

Wednesday's Games

Chicago White Sox (Lopez 4-7) at Boston (Sale 3-7), 10:05 a.m.
Toronto (Thornton 2-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Paxton 5-3), 10:05 a.m.
Kansas City (Junis 4-6) at Cleveland (Bauer 5-6), 10:10 a.m.
San Diego (Strahm 2-6) at Baltimore (Bundy 3-9), 12:05 p.m.
Texas (Minor 7-4) at Detroit (Boyd 5-5), 4:10 p.m.
Oakland (Anderson 0-2) at St. Louis (Wainwright 5-6), 4:15 p.m.
Cincinnati (Roark 5-6) at L.A. Angels (TBD), 5:07 p.m.
Pittsburgh (TBD) at Houston (Valdez 3-3), 5:10 p.m.
Seattle (TBD) at Milwaukee (Houser 2-1), 5:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Morton 8-1) at Minnesota (Odorizzi 10-3), 5:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 10:10 a.m.
Texas at Detroit, 10:10 a.m.
Pittsburgh at Houston, 11:10 a.m.
Seattle at Milwaukee, 11:10 a.m.
Oakland at L.A. Angels, 7:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	47	33	.588	—
Philadelphia	41	38	.519	5 1/2
Washington	38	40	.487	8
New York	37	43	.463	10
Miami	30	47	.390	15 1/2
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	43	36	.544	—
Milwaukee	42	37	.532	1
St. Louis	40	38	.513	2 1/2
Cincinnati	36	40	.474	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	36	41	.468	6

WEST

W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	54	26	.675	—
Colorado	41	37	.526	12
Arizona	40	40	.500	14
San Diego	39	40	.494	14 1/2
San Francisco	33	44	.429	19 1/2

Tuesday's Games

Philadelphia 7, N.Y. Mets 5
San Diego 8, Baltimore 3
Washington 6, Miami 1
Atlanta 3, Chicago Cubs 2
Houston 5, Pittsburgh 1
Seattle 8, Milwaukee 3
Oakland 7, St. Louis 3

Wednesday's Games

San Diego (Strahm 2-6) at Baltimore (Bundy 3-9), 12:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Gonsolin 0-0) at Arizona (Clarke 1-3), 12:40 p.m.
Colorado (Marquez 7-3) at San Francisco (Samardzija 4-6), 12:45 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Vargas 3-3) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 4-2), 4:05 p.m.
Washington (Corbin 6-5) at Miami (Galien 0-0), 4:10 p.m.
Oakland (Anderson 0-2) at St. Louis (Wainwright 5-6), 4:15 p.m.
Atlanta (Keuchel 0-1) at Chicago Cubs (Darvish 2-3), 5:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Roark 5-6) at L.A. Angels (TBD), 5:07 p.m.
Pittsburgh (TBD) at Houston (Valdez 3-3), 5:10 p.m.
Seattle (TBD) at Milwaukee (Houser 2-1), 5:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games

N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 10:05 a.m.
Pittsburgh at Houston, 11:10 a.m.
Seattle at Milwaukee, 11:10 a.m.
Atlanta at Chicago Cubs, 11:20 a.m.
Washington at Miami, 4:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, 5:40 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 6:45 p.m.

NORTHWEST LEAGUE

All Times PDT	W	L	Pct	GB
North				
Spokane (Rangers)	9	2	.818	—
Tri-City (Padres)	4	7	.364	5
Everett (Mariners)	4	7	.364	5
Vancouver (Blue Jays)	3	8	.273	6
South	W	L	Pct	GB
Salem-Keizer (Giants)	7	4	.636	—
Hillsboro (Diamondbacks)	7	4	.636	—
Eugene (Cubs)	7	5	.583	1/2
Boise (Rockies)	4	8	.333	3 1/2

Tuesday's Games

Boise 4, Eugene 0
Tri-City 3, Spokane 1
Hillsboro 7, Salem-Keizer 0
Wednesday's Games
Eugene at Boise, 6:15 p.m.
Tri-City at Spokane, 6:30 p.m.
Hillsboro at Salem-Keizer, 6:35 p.m.
Vancouver at Everett, 7:05 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Eugene at Boise, 6:15 p.m.
Tri-City at Spokane, 6:30 p.m.
Hillsboro at Salem-Keizer, 6:35 p.m.
Vancouver at Everett, 7:05 p.m.

SOCCER

2019 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP GLANCE

All Times PDT	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
FIRST ROUND						
GROUP A						
x-France	3	0	0	7	1	9
x-Norway	2	1	0	6	3	6
x-Nigeria	1	2	0	2	4	3
South Korea	0	3	0	1	8	0
x-advanced to second round						
Friday, June 7						
At Paris						

FRANCE 4, SOUTH KOREA 0

Saturday, June 8	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
At Reims, France	3	0	0	6	0	9
Norway 3, Nigeria 0	1	1	1	3	2	4
Wednesday, June 12						
At Grenoble, France	1	1	1	1	1	4
Nigeria 2, South Korea 0	0	3	0	1	8	0
At Nice, France						
France 2, Norway 1						
Monday, June 17						
At Rennes, France						
France 1, Nigeria 0						
At Reims, France						
Norway 2, South Korea 1						
GROUP B						
x-Germany	3	0	0	6	0	9
x-Spain	1	1	1	3	2	4
x-China	1	1	1	1	1	4
South Africa	0	3	0	1	8	0
x-advanced to second round						
Saturday, June 8						
At Rennes, France						
Germany 1, China 0						
At Le Havre, France						
Spain 3, South Africa 1						
Wednesday, June 12						
At Valenciennes, France						
Germany 1, Spain 0						
Thursday, June 13						
At Paris						
China 1, South Africa 0						
Monday, June 17						
At Montpellier, France						
Germany 4, South Africa 0						
At Le Havre, France						
China 0, Spain 0						
GROUP C						
x-Italy	2	1	0	7	2	6
x-Australia	2	1	0	8	5	6
x-Brazil	2	1	0	6	3	6
Jamaica	0	3	0	1	12	0
x-advanced to second round						
Sunday, June 9						
At Valenciennes, France						
Italy 2, Australia 1						
At Grenoble, France						
Brazil 3, Jamaica 0						
Thursday, June 13						
At Montpellier, France						
Australia 3, Brazil 2						