

Sports

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Astros top Mariners

By Tim Booth
AP Sports Writer
SEATTLE — Charlie Morton did what's become expected on the mound in getting his 12th victory, while Evan Gattis and Josh Reddick provided the pop needed with all the big names missing from the Houston Astros' lineup right now.

Gattis hit a two-run home run to put Houston ahead, Reddick capped it with a two-run shot in the ninth inning, and the Astros snapped a five-game losing streak with a 5-2 win over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night.

Already without Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa, the Astros lost George Springer for most of Tuesday's game with a sore shoulder.

"We've just got to go in there and do our job and not try to make up too much for those guys because obviously we're not those guys and what they can do," Reddick said. "We've got to piece it together and hopefully put a

few guys (together) that can make one of them."
Gattis' 21st home run of the season came in the sixth off Seattle starter Mike Leake and snapped a 1-1 tie. Leake left a breaking ball in the middle of the plate and Gattis clubbed it over the left field fence to put the Astros in front.

Reddick greeted new Seattle reliever Zach Duke with a shot to deep right-center field in the ninth. It was the first home run allowed this season by Duke, who was acquired in a trade with Minnesota.

Morton (12-2) struck out eight and didn't allow Seattle to put together a sustained rally. Seattle's offense was limited to Jean Segura's solo home run and Mitch Haniger's RBI single. Morton was pulled after the sixth, despite giving up just two runs and throwing 90 pitches. The sixth inning was the only time Seattle had multiple runners on base and Morton

got out of the jam after Haniger's single by getting Chris Hermann to ground out with two runners on.

"He pitched great. His command of his pitches was overall good tonight. Got some big swings and misses when he needed to," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said.

Hector Rondon pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Leake (8-7) escaped a bases loaded jam in the fourth inning, but couldn't avoid giving up a run in the fifth. Leake left a 0-2 pitch to Reddick in the middle of the plate and his two-out single scored Tony Kemp. Gattis added his homer an inning later.

Leake allowed eight hits and struck out four. He allowed three earned runs or more for just the fourth time in his past 13 starts.

"Felt good (early), I was mixing and matching and kind of keeping them off-balance, and then they got me a couple times," Leake said.

FIRES CONTINUE TO RAVAGE PARTS OF CALIFORNIA

Veteran firefighters say blazes seem to be faster, more unpredictable with each passing summer

■ Fire managers talk about 'prolonged summer' and 'endless fires' that have plagued parts of the West

By Martha Mendoza
Associated Press
ANDERSON, California — Exhausted and hungry, some 12,000 firefighters are working 24-hour shifts battling deadly California wildfires and becoming resigned to fire seasons that start earlier, burn longer and unleash increasingly unpredictable blazes.

"There's a lot going on up here, endless fires, and they're all characteristically pretty much the same — windy, hot and dry," firefighter James Sweeney said before heading out for a meal and a nap.

Sweeney, from St. Petersburg, Florida, is a "hotshot," part of an elite team of highly trained wildland firefighters who spend fire season battling the fiercest blazes in the country.

Weary after more than a day on the fire lines, the 43-year-old said when his Gila, New Mexico-based crew does leave California, he expects to go north into Oregon, where new fires are kicking up.

"These days it's crazy," he said. "We give up our whole life all summer."

Crews made progress this weekend on the Carr Fire near Redding, about 230 miles north of San Francisco. But it was still threatening thousands of homes and was not expected to be fully contained until mid-August at the earliest.

For many of the firefighters slamming down 9,000-calorie meals between shifts, the nonstop effort has become routine.

Last year, a fast-moving series of fires in Santa Rosa, just north of San Francisco, and elsewhere in Northern California killed 44 people and destroyed more than 8,000 structures. Last December's Thomas Fire near Santa Barbara burned almost 282,000 acres, becoming the largest wildfire in California history.

In his 19 years on the job, Cal Fire Capt. Chris

"Fire has become a lot more unpredictable. In the past we could plan, but these days a fire can take a sudden and deadly turn."

— Cal Fire Capt. Chris Anthony

Anthony said the most significant change is that hotter, drier conditions now mean that firefighters are trained to take a "tactical pause" to reconsider before charging in against the flames.

"Fire has become a lot more unpredictable," he said. "In the past we could plan, but these days a fire can take a sudden and deadly turn."

That's what happened Thursday, when the fire near Redding pivoted and exploded in size, taking down hundreds of homes and killing five people, two of them firefighters. Another firefighter was killed earlier in the month battling a giant fire near Yosemite National Park.

Firefighter Jason Campbell was on the front lines Thursday near Yosemite when the Carr Fire destroyed his home, an RV and a boat near Redding. Redding Police Chief Roger Moore also lost his home.

Capt. Jarrett Grassl, a 19-year veteran who works for the Higgins Fire District in Northern California, said his crew ran into homeowners trying to save their own properties. The threat to homes reflects the shrinking divide between wilderness and urban areas.

"Every year it seems to be a bigger problem," Grassl said Saturday, in 110-degree weather with zero precipitation.

Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko said he can see the fatigue on the faces of the firefighters when they come in to refuel.

"What really helps to encourage them is a thank you," Bosenko said Sunday. "Maybe something posted near the fence that gives them

encouragement ... that is a big plus for the firefighters that are coming in to recover."

Fighting wildfires is almost always dangerous and grueling, but experienced firefighters said the Carr Fire has been even hotter, drier and more erratic than they are accustomed to.

Crews used shovels, hoses and chain saws to corral giant walls of flame that burned through canyons and up steep gulches. The air was thick with smoke and dust as they hauled heavy gear up and down unstable hillsides, grabbing gulps of water whenever they could. They largely worked in silence, with the sound of crashing tree limbs and roaring flames drowning out radios.

Nevada County Fire Capt. Nathan Mentch calls California's weather system "the prolonged summer." Replenishing fire hose gear after spending the night protecting a Redding neighborhood, he said he was surprised by how quickly the fire spread.

"The winds came in," he said. "It was out of control."

But 13 years into his career, that chaos is something he's come to expect.

There was one small bright spot in his last shift. As flames leaped from one pine to the next, creating a canopy of fire, his team stopped its truck in a driveway near scattered oak trees, expecting the wildfire to continue unchecked.

"But this one oak, it slowed it down," he said. "I don't know why, but it just didn't torch off. And that allowed us to turn the fire from those homes, to be proactive instead of reactive."

Nationals set franchise record in 25-4 rout of Mets

By Harvey Valentine
Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The New York Mets have been searching for any reason to smile during a miserable season. This laughter wasn't exactly what they had in mind.

In the highest-scoring game in Nationals franchise history, Daniel Murphy hit two early home runs and Washington kept pouring it on against emergency reliever Jose Reyes and the Mets in a 25-4 rout Tuesday night.

"Even to throw Jose Reyes out there and the guys hit them like they did, you don't even see that in BP," Mets manager Mickey Callaway said. "Those guys were locked in, they came out tonight and they beat us up pretty bad."

The Nationals set the team scoring mark dating to their days when they started as the Montreal Expos in 1969. It was the Mets' most-lopsided loss in their 57-season history, worse than a 26-7 pounding by Philadelphia in 1985.

It got so out of hand, Mets television announcers Keith Hernandez, Ron Darling and Gary Cohen took turns reading verbatim from

the team's media guide in the late innings — the SNY network played the theme from "Masterpiece Theatre" in the background.

Reyes made the first pitching appearance of his career, and the 35-year-old infielder got tagged for home runs by Matt Adams and Mark Reynolds in a six-run eighth. Throwing a fastball in the mid-80s mph and a curve in the upper 40s, Reyes gave up five hits, walked two and threw 48 pitches.

Reyes retired Ryan Zimmerman on a flyball to begin the inning. The Nationals went batty after that, and Zimmerman came up again with two outs.

This time, Reyes floated in a pitch that hit Zimmerman in the leg. Zimmerman did a little shake in the batter's box, then playfully faked a charge toward the mound, drawing a laugh from Reyes.

"I didn't want to make two outs against him. I've played against Jose for a long time. He's one of my favorite players to play against," Zimmerman said. "He always has a smile on his face. That was pretty funny and surreal to hit against him after all that we've been through against each other."

SCOREBOARD

TELEVISION

All Times PDT
Thursday, Aug. 2
Chicago at Baltimore, 5 p.m. (NBC)
U.S. women vs. Brazil, 5:30 p.m. (FS1)
Toronto at Seattle, 7 p.m. (ROOT)
Friday, Aug. 3
Toronto at Seattle, 7 p.m. (ROOT)
Saturday, Aug. 4
Atlanta United at Toronto FC, 1 p.m. (ESPN)
Toronto at Seattle, 7 p.m. (ROOT)
Sunday, Aug. 5
Toronto at Seattle, 1 p.m. (ROOT)
NY Yankees at Boston, 5:05 p.m. (ESPN)

MAJOR LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	75	34	.688	—
New York	68	37	.648	5
Tampa Bay	54	53	.505	20
Toronto	48	58	.453	25½
Baltimore	32	75	.299	42

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	58	48	.547	—
Minnesota	49	57	.462	9
Detroit	46	62	.426	13
Chicago	37	69	.349	21
Kansas City	33	73	.311	25

West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	68	41	.624	—
Seattle	63	44	.589	4
Oakland	63	46	.578	5
Los Angeles	54	54	.500	13½
Texas	46	63	.422	22

Monday's Games

Boston 2, Philadelphia 1, 13 innings
Minnesota 5, Cleveland 4
Texas 9, Arizona 5
Oakland 10, Toronto 1
Seattle 2, Houston 0

Tuesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 3
Detroit 2, Cincinnati 1
Tampa Bay 10, L.A. Angels 6
Philadelphia 3, Boston 1
Cleveland 6, Minnesota 2
Kansas City 4, Chicago White Sox 2
Arizona 6, Texas 0
Oakland 6, Toronto 2
Houston 5, Seattle 2

Today's Games All Times PDT

Baltimore (Cobb 2-14) at N.Y. Yankees (Gray 8-7), 10:05 a.m.
Cincinnati (Romano 6-8) at Detroit (Fiers 7-6), 10:10 a.m.
Cleveland (Carrasco 12-5) at Minnesota (Mejia 1-0), 10:10 a.m.
Toronto (Stroman 4-7) at Oakland (Manaea 9-7), 12:35 p.m.

Houston (Keuchel 8-9) at Seattle (LeBlanc 6-1), 1:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Tropeano 4-5) at Tampa Bay (Glasnow 1-2), 4:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Junis 5-11) at Chicago White Sox (Covey 4-6), 5:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games

L.A. Angels (Hean 6-6) at Tampa Bay (TBD), 10:10 a.m.
Kansas City (Keller 4-4) at Chicago White Sox (Lopez 4-9), 11:10 a.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 6-4) at Boston (Johnson 1-3), 4:10 p.m.
Baltimore (Cashner 3-9) at Texas (Gallardo 5-1), 5:05 p.m.
Toronto (TBD) at Seattle (Hernandez 8-9), 7:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Philadelphia	59	48	.551	—
Atlanta	57	47	.548	½
Washington	53	53	.500	5½
New York	44	60	.423	13½
Miami	46	63	.422	14

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	61	45	.575	—
Milwaukee	63	47	.573	—
Pittsburgh	56	52	.519	6
St. Louis	54	53	.505	7½
Cincinnati	48	59	.449	13½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Arizona	60	49	.550	—
Colorado	58	48	.547	½
Los Angeles	59	49	.546	½
San Francisco	55	54	.505	5
San Diego	42	68	.382	18½

Monday's Games

Boston 2, Philadelphia 1, 13 innings
Atlanta 5, Miami 3
St. Louis 5, Colorado 4, 10 innings
Texas 9, Arizona 5
Milwaukee 5, L.A. Dodgers 2
San Francisco 5, San Diego 3, 12 innings

Tuesday's Games

San Francisco 3, San Diego 2, 10 innings
Washington 25, N.Y. Mets 4
Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 4
Detroit 2, Cincinnati 1
Philadelphia 3, Boston 1
Atlanta 11, Miami 6
Colorado 6, St. Louis 3
Arizona 6, Texas 0
Milwaukee 1, L.A. Dodgers 0

Today's Games All Times PDT

N.Y. Mets (Syn dergaard 6-1) at Washington (Milone 0-0), 9:05 a.m.
Cincinnati (Romano 6-8) at Detroit (Fiers 7-6), 10:10 a.m.
Chicago Cubs (Hamels 5-9) at Pittsburgh (Kingham 5-5), 4:05 p.m.
Miami (Lopez 2-2) at Atlanta (Sanchez 5-3),

4:35 p.m.
Colorado (Freeland 9-6) at St. Louis (Weaver 6-9), 5:15 p.m.
Milwaukee (Anderson 7-7) at L.A. Dodgers (Hill 4-4), 7:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Colorado (Senzatela 4-3) at St. Louis (Mikolas 11-3), 10:15 a.m.
Cincinnati (Mahle 7-8) at Washington (Scherzer 14-5), 4:05 p.m.
Miami (Richards 3-5) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 6-9), 4:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Folkynewicz 7-7) at N.Y. Mets (Vargas 2-6), 4:10 p.m.
San Diego (Erlin 1-3) at Chicago Cubs (Montgomery 3-4), 5:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Chacin 10-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 4-5), 6 p.m.
San Francisco (Bumgarner 3-4) at Arizona (Greinke 12-5), 6:40 p.m.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	T	Pts
Atlanta United FC	14	4	5	47
New York City FC	13	5	4	43
New York	13	6	2	41
Columbus	10	7	6	36
Montreal	9	13	1	28
New England	7	7	7	28
Philadelphia	8	10	3	27
Chicago	6	12	5	23
Orlando City	7	14	1	22
Toronto FC	6	11	4	22
D.C. United	4	9	5	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	T	Pts
FC Dallas	12	3	6	42
Los Angeles FC	10	5	6	36
L.A. Galaxy	10	7	5	35
Portland	9	3	7	34
Sporting Kansas City	9	6	6	33
Real Salt Lake	9	9	4	31
Minnesota	8	9	5	29
Vancouver	9	12	1	28
Houston	7	8	6	27
Seattle	7	9	5	26
Colorado	4	12	5	17
San Jose	2	12	7	13

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

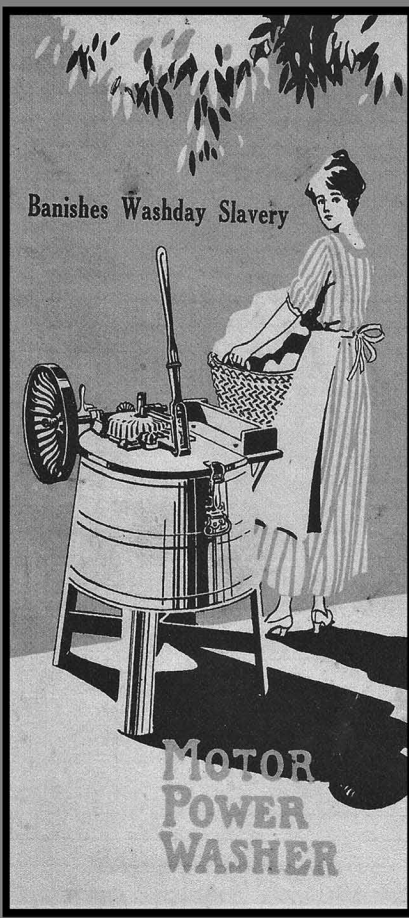
Saturday's Games All Times PDT

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.
L.A. 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's Game

Los Angeles FC at New York, 6 p.m.

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