

Sports

Astros nip Seattle, stay tied atop AL West

By Todd Milles
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Houston manager A.J. Hinch knows his pitching staff can throw good fastballs. However, it is the change-of-direction pitches that bring a smile to his face.

Rookie left-hander Framber Valdez won in his big-league debut, and Josh Reddick homered to give the Astros the lead for good as they beat the Seattle Mariners 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Reddick's tiebreaking home run in the fourth inning put the Astros ahead 2-1, and Yuli Gurriel added an RBI single in the sixth for a two-run lead.

Valdez, called up from Triple-A Fresno earlier in the Tuesday, gave the ballclub a lift with his four-plus innings of one-run ball in relief of Brad Peacock. Valdez (1-0) came on at the end of the second inning with two on and two out, and threw two consecutive curve balls to Dee Gordon for strikes, eventually

getting out of the jam.

"We threw him into the fire," Hinch said. "He was incredibly impressive. . . He pounded the strike zone with a lot of confidence."

Seattle pulled to 3-2 in the eighth inning on Ben Gamel's RBI single to right field, but stranded the tying run at third base after pinch hitter Nelson Cruz and Gordon struck out against the Roberto Osuna to end the inning.

Hector Rondon earned his 14th save with a spotless ninth inning as Houston snapped a five-game skid against Seattle, and remained tied with Oakland atop the AL West standings.

The only run Valdez allowed was in the third inning. He struck out Kyle Seager, but Mitch Haniger raced home after catcher Max Stassi allowed the pitch to go through his legs for a passed ball.

After that, he retired eight of the next nine Seattle hitters.

"With each pitch, and each inning, I felt more and more comfortable," Valdez said.

Both teams used Tuesday as a "bullpen" day. Reliever Nick Vincent made his first career start, tossing two scoreless innings.

Houston took a 1-0 lead on Carlos Correa's sacrifice fly off Ross Detwiler in the third inning before the Mariners tied it.

Reddick lifted Detwiler's 86 mph changeup deep into the right-field bleachers in the fourth to put the Astros ahead. But the Mariners stayed close behind six double plays, which was a franchise record.

"If you'd have told me that we were in a 3-2 game late with guys on base and the right guys up, we'll take our chances," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "We didn't get the big hit tonight."

LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Hawaii, New York teams square off

By Patrick Burns
Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Baseball looks like it comes easily to Hawaii's Aukai Kea.

Case in point, Honolulu's first game of the Little League World Series, when Kea slugged a walk-off home run after tossing 6 1/3 shutout innings.

But even he isn't afraid to admit it — playing on national television and meeting major league players can be quite daunting.

"This whole tournament, this whole journey has been really nerve-wracking because our faces are all over the world and you never know who's watching," 12-year-old Kea said.

"You don't want to mess up in front of them," said his teammate, Ka'Olu Holt. "You want them to like you."

The pressure will be amplified Wednesday night as Hawaii and a team from New York's Staten Island are set to play in the marquee matchup of the tournament thus far. The winner will head to the championship game in the United States bracket.

The loser could still make that U.S. title game — a semi-final for the whole LLWS — but will have a harder road.

Hawaii has embraced the nerves that come with representing their league for the first time in South Williamsport, playing in front of crowds that include tens of thousands of people.

SCOREBOARD

TELEVISION

All Times PDT

Wednesday, Aug. 22

Little League World Series, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
St. Louis at LA Dodgers, 7:10 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Aug. 23

Little League World Series, noon (ESPN)
Little League World Series, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 5 p.m. (FOX)

Friday, Aug. 24

Seattle at Minnesota, 5 p.m. (KFTV)
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 5 p.m. (CBS)
Seattle at Arizona, 6 p.m. (ROOT)

Saturday, Aug. 25

Little League World Series, 9:30 a.m. (ABC)
Little League World Series, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
Jacksonville State at North Carolina A&T, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Seattle at Arizona, 4:30 p.m. (ROOT)
New Orleans at LA Chargers, 5 p.m. (CBS)
Worming at New Mexico State, 6 p.m. (ESPN2)

Sunday, Aug. 26

Little League World Series, 7 a.m. (ESPN)
Little League World Series, noon (ABC)
Seattle at Arizona, 12:30 p.m. (ROOT)
Cincinnati at Buffalo, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Arizona at Dallas, 5 p.m. (NBC)
NY Yankees at Baltimore, 5:05 p.m. (ESPN)

MAJOR LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Boston	88	39	.693	—
New York	79	46	.632	8
Tampa Bay	65	61	.516	22½
Toronto	57	69	.452	30½
Baltimore	37	89	.294	50½

Central Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Cleveland	73	52	.584	—
Minnesota	60	65	.480	13
Detroit	52	74	.413	21½
Chicago	47	78	.376	26
Kansas City	38	88	.302	35½

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Houston	76	50	.603	—
Oakland	76	50	.603	—
Seattle	72	55	.567	4½
Los Angeles	63	64	.496	13½
Texas	56	72	.438	21

Tuesday's Games

Toronto 8, Baltimore 2
Cleveland 6, Boston 3
Detroit 2, Chicago Cubs 1
N.Y. Yankees 2, Miami 1, 12 innings
Tampa Bay 4, Kansas City 1
Minnesota 5, Chicago White Sox 2
Arizona 5, L.A. Angels 4
Oakland 6, Texas 0
Houston 3, Seattle 2

Today's Games All Times PDT

Baltimore (Hess 2-7) at Toronto (Pannone 0-0), 9:37 a.m.
Minnesota (Gibson 7-9) at Chicago White Sox (Rodon 4-3), 11:10 a.m.
Texas (Minor 9-6) at Oakland (Jackson 4-2), 12:35 p.m.
Houston (Morton 12-3) at Seattle (Gonzales 12-8), 1:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Lester 13-5) at Detroit (Liriano 3-8), 4:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Carrasco 15-6) at Boston (Johnson 4-3), 4:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Junis 6-11) at Tampa Bay (Stanek 1-3), 4:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Lynn 8-8) at Miami (Richards

3-7), 4:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Despaigne 2-1) at Arizona (Buchholz 6-2), 6:40 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Cleveland (Plutko 4-3) at Boston (Price 13-6), 10:05 a.m.
Chicago White Sox (Shields 5-14) at Detroit (Boyd 7-11), 10:10 a.m.
Kansas City (Duffy 7-11) at Tampa Bay (Glasnow 1-3), 4:10 p.m.
Oakland (Cahill 5-2) at Minnesota (Stewart 0-1), 5:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Atlanta	70	55	.560	—
Philadelphia	68	57	.544	2
Washington	63	63	.500	7½
New York	55	70	.440	15
Miami	50	77	.394	21

Central Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Chicago	71	53	.573	—
St. Louis	70	57	.551	2½
Milwaukee	70	58	.547	3
Pittsburgh	63	64	.496	9½
Cincinnati	56	70	.444	16

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Arizona	70	56	.556	—
Colorado	68	57	.544	1½
Los Angeles	67	60	.528	3½
San Francisco	62	65	.488	8½
San Diego	50	78	.391	21

Philadelphia (Eflin 9-4) at Washington (Strasburg 6-7), 4:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Lester 13-5) at Detroit (Liriano 3-8), 4:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Lynn 8-8) at Miami (Richards 3-7), 4:10 p.m.
San Francisco (Kelly 0-1) at N.Y. Mets (Snydergaard 8-3), 4:10 p.m.
San Diego (Nix 1-1) at Colorado (Gray 9-7), 5:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Despaigne 2-1) at Arizona (Buchholz 6-2), 6:40 p.m.
St. Louis (Faherty 7-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 6-4), 7:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Philadelphia (Nola 14-3) at Washington (Scherer 16-5), 10:05 a.m.
San Francisco (Bumgarner 4-5) at N.Y. Mets (deGrom 8-7), 10:10 a.m.
San Diego (Lucchesi 6-7) at Colorado (Freeland 11-7), 12:10 p.m.
Atlanta (Newcomb 10-6) at Miami (Straily 4-6), 4:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (DeSclafani 6-3) at Chicago Cubs (Hamel 8-9), 5:05 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL

ASIA/PACIFIC, Seoul (South Korea); AUSTRALIA, Gold Coast; CANADA, Surrey (British Columbia); CARIBBEAN, Guayama (Puerto Rico); EUROPE/AFRICA, Barcelona (Spain); JAPAN, Kawaguchi; LATIN AMERICA, Arriajan (Panama); MEXICO, Matamoros

Double Elimination Thursday, Aug. 16

Seoul (South Korea) 4, Guayama (Puerto Rico) 2, 9 innings
Staten Island (N.Y.) 5, Des Moines (Iowa) 2
Matamoros (Mexico) 3, Gold Coast (Australia) 2
Houston 3, Coventry (R.I.) 1

Friday, Aug. 17

Kawaguchi (Japan) 11, Barcelona (Spain) 1, 5 innings
Grosse Pointe Woods (Mich.) 5, Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) 4
Arriajan (Panama) 8, Surrey (British Columbia) 3
Honolulu 2, Peachtree City (Ga.) 0, 11 innings

Kawaguchi (Japan) 4, Arriajan (Panama) 2
Honolulu 8, Grosse Pointe Woods (Mich.) 3

Monday, Aug. 20

Coventry (R.I.) 15, Gold Coast (Australia) 0, 4 innings
Guayama (Puerto Rico) 3, Arriajan (Panama) 1, Arriajan eliminated
Grosse Pointe Woods (Mich.) 5, Des Moines (Iowa) 4, Des Moines eliminated
Surrey (British Columbia) 6, Matamoros (Mexico) 4, Matamoros eliminated
Peachtree City (Ga.) 7, Houston 6, 9 innings, Houston eliminated

Tuesday, Aug. 21

Barcelona (Spain) vs. Coeur d'Alene (Idaho), ppd., weather
Guayama (Puerto Rico) vs. Surrey (British Columbia), ppd., weather
Grosse Pointe Woods (Mich.) vs. Peachtree City (Ga.), ppd., weather

Saturday, Aug. 18

Guayama (Puerto Rico) 6, Gold Coast (Australia) 0
Des Moines (Iowa) 9, Coventry (R.I.) 5
Surrey (British Columbia) 2, Barcelona (Spain) 1, 10 innings
Peachtree City (Ga.) 3, Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) 0

Sunday, Aug. 19

Seoul (South Korea) 5, Matamoros (Mexico) 1
Staten Island (N.Y.) 2, Houston 1

Today's Games All Times PDT

Game 21: Guayama (Puerto Rico) vs. Surrey (British Columbia), noon
Game 22: Grosse Pointe Woods (Mich.) vs. Peachtree City (Ga.), noon
Game 23: Seoul (South Korea) vs. Kawaguchi (Japan), 4:30 p.m.
Game 24: Staten Island (N.Y.) vs. Honolulu, 4:30 p.m.

NFL PRESEASON

Thursday's Game All Times PDT
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 5 p.m.

GOLF

Twilight League Men's Golf Standings End Second Half

	W	L	T
Outpost Electric	2.5	3.5	31.5
Windshield Doctor	3.5	2.5	30
Superior Towing	4	3.5	28
Barley Browns	4.5	1.5	27
Baker Daines	4	2	27
Four Seasons	2	4	26.5
P&E Distributing	2	4	26.5
Blackers Hackers	4	2	26
Rosie's Bordello	1.5	4.5	25.5
Trie County Equipment	2	4	22

Front Nine

Low gross — Kevin Logsdon 37. Low net — Troy Phillips, Mike Cook 32.

Back Nine

Low gross — Gary Carter, Colt Nudd 38. Low net — B. Tiemann

OREGON FOOTBALL FUTURE SCHEDULE

Ducks to open 2022 season against Georgia

ATLANTA (AP) — Oregon and Georgia will meet for only the second time when the schools play in the 2022 season opener at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

The teams were announced on Tuesday to play in the annual Chick-fil-A Kickoff game on Sept. 3, 2022. Oregon will become the second Pac-12 team to play in the game. Washington will play Auburn on Sept. 1 in this year's opener.

Trustees to decide Urban Meyer's future

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State trustees are set to discuss the future of football coach Urban Meyer.

The 20-member board plans to meet in private Wednesday morning in Columbus to decide whether Meyer should be punished for his handling of domestic-abuse allegations against a former assistant coach.

The investigation centers on what Meyer knew and did about allegations of abuse against former wide receivers coach Zach Smith.

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