

Sports

Astros rout Mariners

By Terry Blount
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Even without Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa and George Springer, the Houston Astros are rolling toward another AL West title.

Alex Bregman had two hits and three RBIs, and seven other Astros drove in at least one run as Houston beat the Seattle Mariners 11-5 Tuesday night for its fifth straight win.

"We have good players and we know how to win, but we've had to win a little differently," Astros manager AJ Hinch said before Tuesday's game. "We've manufactured runs a little bit better."

That's exactly what the Astros did in coming back Tuesday, scoring three runs in the seventh inning and four in the eighth without the benefit of a home run. Houston had two sacrifice flies, three

walks, five singles, one double and one steal by Derek Fisher on an overturned call during that seven-run stretch.

"This team is battling every at-bat," Fisher said. "We're winning games in a little different way right now and having a lot of fun doing it."

The Astros have won 9 of 11 and are 5-0 during this road trip. They moved 10 games ahead of second-place Texas in the division.

FRENCH OPEN TENNIS

Federer vs. Nadal — again

By Howard Fendrich
AP Tennis Writer

PARIS — Roger Federer knew when he returned to the French Open that, if things went exceedingly well, he eventually would find himself face-to-face with Rafael Nadal.

Here we go. Just like old times.

Federer put away Stan Wawrinka after a 75-minute rain delay Tuesday, converting a break point for just the second time in 18 chances and quickly wrapping up a 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 victory over his friend and Swiss countryman to reach the semifinals at Roland

Garros.

And what a showdown comes next: Federer vs. Nadal for a spot in the final.

"Always," Nadal said, "a big match."

They are two titans of tennis, with Federer holding a men's-record 20 Grand Slam titles, and Nadal next with 17.

Nadal, who won 11 of his trophies in Paris, has gotten the better of their rivalry over the years, leading 23-15 overall, 9-3 at majors, 13-2 on clay and 5-0 at the French Open.

"My next opponent is not too bad. He can play on clay, unfortunately," Federer joked to the crowd at Court Suzanne Lenglen.

SALE

Continued from Page 1A

"Both of them are really good fits," Western Communications Chairwoman Betsy McCool said of the proposed buyers. "I wish them all luck. I'm hoping they'll serve their community and employees well. I have no doubt that they will."

Saddled with debt from its Bend headquarters building, Western Communications filed in January for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Last month the company filed a reorganization plan that consists of selling all its assets, including The Bulletin, a newspaper that began in 1903 and was previously run by McCool's late father, Robert Chandler.

The company's real estate is being marketed separately. Neither Country Media nor EO Media has proposed to buy any of the real estate at this point. Country Media's purchase of the coastal papers would include the Smith River printing press but not the building that houses it, McCool said.

Representatives of the two potential buyers couldn't be reached for comment Tuesday morning.

Western Communications' reorganization plan estimated that all the newspaper operations, which include The Union Democrat in Sonoma, California, and The Redmond Spokesman, which prints weekly, would be worth \$5 million to \$10 million.

"The numbers came in about where we thought they would," said Owen Van Essen of the newspaper brokerage Dirks, Van Essen, Murray & April. "They're factoring in the trends of the business."

The Triplicate, which has a circulation of 3,500, and Pilot, circulation 4,000, are published Wednesdays and Saturdays. The two newspapers and Smith River printing facility employ 34 people.

The Observer in La Grande, circulation 3,250, and Baker City Herald, circulation 1,900, publish Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and employ a combined 24 people.

The two Northeastern Oregon newspapers are already printed by EO Media Group, which owns the East Oregonian in Pendleton and Hermiston Herald, among other publications.

McCool said she's not permitted to talk about bids submitted for The Bulletin, The Redmond Spokesman or The Union Democrat until a proposed sale comes before the court.



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