



Jose M. Osorio/Chicago Tribune

Players from the New York Yankees and Chicago White Sox emerge from a corn field before the "Field of Dreams" game on Aug. 12 in Dyersville, Iowa.

Bringing big screen dreams to life

■ The 'Field of Dreams' baseball game was a fitting tribute to a beloved film

On Aug. 12, among the corn stalks in the heart of Iowa, we saw the New York Yankees and the Chicago White Sox play a game in honor of the 32nd anniversary of the motion picture that warmed the hearts of baseball fans for decades — "Field of Dreams," starring James Earl Jones, Kevin Costner, Ray Liotta and Amy Madigan.

Recreating movie moments in real life — isn't that just a gut punch right into our nostalgic feelings?



COREY KIRK

Everything about the day felt like magic. Tickets were available to a select crowd — nearly \$400 for bleacher seats — and every seat was filled in Dyersville, Iowa. The old school uniforms were perfect. And 5.9 million viewers tuned in via Fox Sports, making it the most watched

regular season game in the past 16 years.

To top it off, White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson launched a pitch from the Yankees' Zack Britton into the corn. Fireworks exploded as Anderson rounded third to be mobbed by his teammates at home to end the first game at the Field of Dreams.

Simply poetic. Watching the game left my heart feeling full. This game shows the potential for incorporating popular films into real-life sporting events,

if it's done right.

I know the numbers support a repeat of the Field of Dreams game.

I am all for it. I recognize that playing a baseball game in Iowa is a lot easier than, say, honoring "The Sandlot," or having the Tampa Bay Buccaneers perform the pregame routine of the T.C. Williams Titans at "Remember the Titans."

But I'm still excited for the next two teams to emerge from the Iowa corn and take the field.

Yankees overtake Red Sox with sweep

By JAKE SEINER
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — It took the New York Yankees just over six weeks to erase a 10 1/2-game gap between them and the Boston Red Sox.

With roughly six more weeks left in the regular season, the longtime rivals are practically in a dead heat — although it sure feels like the Yankees are getting a running start going into the home stretch.

Luis Gil posted his third straight scoreless start to begin his career, Luke Voit and Giancarlo Stanton homered, and New York beat Boston 2-0 Tuesday night to sweep a doubleheader and move percentage points ahead of the Red Sox for an AL wild-card spot.

In the opener, Jonathan Loaisiga stranded the bases loaded in Boston's final at-bat for a gutsy two-inning save after New York capitalized

on a wild outing by Red Sox relievers for a 5-3 victory.

The Yankees have won five straight and 12 of 15 to narrowly overtake Boston for second in the AL East — New York is 68-52 and the Red Sox 69-53, a difference of .001 percentage points. The Yankees were 10 1/2 games behind first-place Boston on July 5 but have gone 26-11 since.

"It's going to be a tough road ahead still, but the group is a confident group,

and I think they know what they're capable of," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

A's pitcher Bassitt hurt by line drive

By JAY COHEN
AP Baseball Writer

Oakland Athletics right-hander Chris Bassitt was carted off the field Tuesday night, Aug. 17 after he was struck on the side of the head by a line drive during the second inning of a 9-0 loss to the Chicago White Sox.

With two on and no outs, Bassitt threw an 89.5 mph cut fastball that Brian Goodwin drove right back up the middle. Bassitt went down on the mound right after he was hit, holding his head, and his teammates quickly waved to the dugout for assistance.

As players on each side looked on, Bassitt was attended to by an Oakland trainer and other personnel before he was helped into the back of a cart while holding a towel to his face. A's center fielder Starling Marte had his hands on his head as Bassitt was driven by him.

"Bass is conscious. He was the entire time," manager Bob Melvin said. "We don't think the eye is a problem at this point. It felt like it was below it. He's got some cuts. They had to do some stitches. He's in a scan and we'll know more about potential fractures or whatever tomorrow, or later tonight."

Melvin took no questions during his postgame Zoom session with the media, and the A's made no players available.

The 32-year-old Bassitt, who broke into the majors with the White Sox in 2014, is in the

midst of a breakout season for Oakland. He was 12-3 with a 3.06 ERA in 24 starts heading into the game, leading the AL in victories.

Burch Smith replaced Bassitt on the mound.

White Sox infielder Jake Lamb, who played with Bas-

sitt last year in Oakland, said it was hard to concentrate after the play.

"It's a lot more than baseball at that point," Lamb said. "It's a friend, it's an old teammate. Any time you get hit in the head like that, it's a very scary situation."

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NBA SUMMER LEAGUE

Blazers lose final summer game

By AARON FENTRESS
oregonlive.com

The Portland Trail Blazers concluded their NBA Summer League schedule on Tuesday, Aug. 17 with a 95-92 loss to Houston at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.

It was the Blazers' third consecutive loss after getting out to a 2-0 start.

Despite the losing streak, Blazers coach Roy Rogers said he liked how the team progressed in Las Vegas.

"Obviously, we wanted to have a better record but sometimes you can't measure progress with your record," Rogers said. "I thought we got better every game."

The Blazers were once again led by veterans with NBA experience. Guard Antonio Blakeney led the team with 23 points. Michael Beasley scored 14 and Emmanuel Mudiay scored 14.

CJ Elleby, who played last season with the Blazers, had 13 points with 10 rebounds but shot just 4 of 13 from the field.

Rookie Greg Brown III stole the show with several spectacularly athletic plays including a dunk in the second quarter in which he put the ball between his legs while in the air before slamming the ball through the basket.

OSU to require masks at home football games

By NICK DASCHEL
oregonlive.com

CORVALLIS — Spectators ages 5 and up attending Oregon State football events at Reser Stadium will be required to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, through at least the end of September.

Benton County's board of commissioners issued the order Tuesday, Aug. 17 because of a surging number of positive COVID-19 infections. The county is mandating masks at any outdoor event where six feet of distance cannot be maintained. The order stipulates that spectators must wear the mask even while seated.

Oregon State plays home football games on Sept. 11 against Hawaii and Sept. 18 against Idaho. It isn't clear if there will be a mask mandate for Saturday's public scrimmage, as it's possible the small number of fans attending might be able to maintain six feet of distance.

The mandate also applies to crowded outdoor events such as high school football games in Benton County.

Alyssa Rash, Benton County public information officer, said at this time there are no requirements regarding stadium capacity limits, or vaccination requirements.

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