

NFL

Sherman could return to Seattle

Richard Sherman remains a free agent after most NFL teams have completed filling out their rosters. The cornerback is unsure where he'll land in the 2021 season.

Sherman hasn't eliminated the possibility of returning to the Seattle Seahawks as he mulls his options.

"I spend my entire off-season in Seattle, that's where I live, that's where my family is. So, it's never out of the cards," Sherman said Wednesday on ESPN's "First Take" show.

Sherman, a fifth-round pick (No. 154) by the Seahawks in the 2011 NFL draft, spent the first seven years of his career with the Seahawks. Sherman flourished with the Seahawks, earning First Team All-Pro honors three times and Pro Bowl nods four times. He finished his time with the Seahawks with 368 total tackles and 32 interceptions, the most picks by any player during that span.

The relationship ended with a seemingly acrimonious split in 2018, following Sherman's season-ending ruptured Achilles tendon during the 2017 season and the team's decision not to offer a contract extension. Seahawks' general manager John Schneider said last week that, despite reports to the contrary, the team has maintained a positive relationship with Sherman.

Sherman said he's on good terms with the team. "There's no bad blood between them and I," Sherman said Wednesday on ESPN's "First Take." "It would be a cool opportunity."

Seahawks' coach Pete Carroll wouldn't commit to signing Sherman. Carroll said last week he wants to get a look at the new additions in the secondary before moving forward with a possible Sherman return.

—The Oregonian

OLYMPICS

Companies donate vaccines for Games

Vaccine developers Pfizer and BioNTech will donate doses to inoculate athletes and officials preparing for the Tokyo Olympics, the IOC said Thursday.

Delivery of doses is set to begin this month to give Olympic delegations time to be fully vaccinated with a second shot before arriving in Tokyo for the games, which open on July 23.

It's the second major vaccination deal for the International Olympic Committee. An agreement was announced in March between the IOC and Olympic officials in China to buy and distribute Chinese vaccines ahead of the Tokyo Games and next year's Beijing Winter Games.

The new Pfizer offer gives the IOC greater coverage worldwide ahead of Tokyo with most countries yet to authorize emergency use of Chinese vaccines.

"We are inviting the athletes and participating delegations of the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games to lead by example and accept the vaccine where and when possible," IOC President Thomas Bach said in a statement.

The Pfizer donation followed talks between the firm's chairman and CEO, Albert Bourla, and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

—Associated Press

PREP BOYS TENNIS | REDMOND PANTHERS

Continuing dominance



Redmond's Yoshi Saito returns a serve while playing a singles match against Ridgeview's Walter Gates at Sam Johnson Park in Redmond on Wednesday.



Redmond's Skyler Jones returns a shot against Ridgeview's Austin Allen at Sam Johnson Park in Redmond on Wednesday.

With no state tournament to look toward, Redmond still enjoying an undefeated season

BY BRIAN RATHBONE

The Bulletin

REDMOND — Not long ago, the Redmond boys tennis team was eyeing a run that could have resulted in multiple state titles.

After capturing the Class 5A state team title in 2019, coach Nathan Saito saw 2020 as a year the squad could have repeated as champions, and 2021 as a year his team would be seeking a three-peat.

The COVID-19 pandemic put an end to that possible string of state titles. However, winning the state championship, let alone repeating, is not what the program has been about.

"We don't really have goals like

that. One of our mottos is to go out and play every match to win," Saito said. "Just go out and play hard. That takes a little pressure off. It is a good group of kids. I say this before every match: the goal is to play good tennis and have good sportsmanship, and that is what they do."

That formula has continued to work after the 2020 season was canceled and no state tournament is scheduled this spring after a short six-week season. With two matches remaining in the season and a district tournament on the horizon, the Panthers have yet to lose a match as a team. Their most recent win came Wednesday in a 7-1 victory over Ridgeview at Sam Johnson Park in Redmond.

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TOKYO GAMES

Anti-Olympic petition gains tens of thousands of signatures

BY YURI KAGEYAMA AND STEPHEN WADE
Associated Press

TOKYO — An online petition calling for the Tokyo Olympics to be canceled has gained tens of thousands of signatures since being launched in Japan only days ago.

The rollout of the petition comes with Tokyo, Osaka and several other areas under a state of emergency with coronavirus infections rising — particularly new variants. The state of emergency is to expire on May 11, but some reports in Japan say it is likely to be extended.

The postponed Olympics are to open in just under three months on July 23.

The petition is addressed to International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, who has tentative plans to visit Japan later this month. He is expected to meet the Olympic torch relay on May 17 in Hiroshima, and perhaps also travel to Tokyo where small anti-Olympic protests are being planned.

Although 70-80% of Japanese citizens in polls say they want the Olympics canceled or postponed, there is no indication this will



A "No Olympics" banner is placed by protesters in Tokyo on March 25 during a demonstration against the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

happen. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Tokyo organizing committee president Seiko Hashimoto, and Bach have repeatedly said the games will go on as scheduled.

Organizers and the IOC unveiled so-called Playbooks last week, explaining rules for athletes and others to show how the Olympics can be

held in the middle of a pandemic. Several test events have been conducted in the last few days, and organizers have reported few problems.

The Olympic torch relay has been crisscrossing Japan for a month. Organizers say that eight people working on the relay have tested positive for the virus.

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MLB | COMMENTARY

No-hitter was painful, but M's must keep focus

BY MATT CALKINS

The Seattle Times

So what comes with the bigger asterisk? Throwing a no-hitter in a seven-inning game, as Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner did last month? Or doing it over nine innings vs. the 2021 Mariners, as the Orioles' John Means did Wednesday afternoon?

No doubt each was a marvelous achievement, and the mobbing Means received after the 27th out was well-deserved. But for the average M's fan who's been watching this team flail at the plate through 32 games, this almost seemed, dare I say ... inevitable?

OK, maybe that's a little strong. But the zero hits in Wednesday's 6-0 loss to Baltimore couldn't have been shocking. The Mariners are hitting .201 this season, which was the second-worst batting average in MLB by game's end (the Tigers, who played the Red Sox on Wednesday night, began the day hitting .199).

This isn't a byproduct of bad health like it may have been in recent seasons. Mitch Haniger, the team's OPS leader (.834) has played all but two games. Kyle Seager, who's second on the team in OPS (.764), has played in every game. Ty France, who's third in OPS (.746) has also played in every contest.

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