

MLB

Mariners dealing with COVID issues

SEATTLE — This is worse than being no-hit and the potential ramifications are yet to be known.

On Friday afternoon, roughly seven hours before their game vs. the Padres at Petco Park, ESPN's Jeff Passan reported that at least one Mariners player in the team's traveling party had tested positive for COVID-19.

MLB sources confirmed the report that the Mariners have at least one player that has tested positive for COVID-19 with the possibility of a second player.

The Mariners were still gathering information and going through protocols of contact tracing. Players who are not vaccinated and contact traced to the player with the positive test will have to quarantine anywhere from 7-10 days regardless of testing negative. Players who are fully vaccinated and contact traced will not have to quarantine if they are asymptomatic.

The Mariners MLB blog also reported a series of roster moves made by Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto following the positive test, including the placement of four pitchers on the injured list.

A week ago, Dipoto lamented the fact that the Mariners were nowhere close to reaching the 85% threshold of Tier 1 employees — players, coaches, training staff and support staff — being fully vaccinated for COVID-19, which would reduce the stringent protocols set by MLB (on Friday MLB announced that now 14 MLB teams have reached the threshold).

Per an agreement with MLB and the MLBPA, teams can't force players to get COVID-19 vaccinations. They also can't openly discuss which players have opted to get vaccinated.

— The Seattle Times

GOLF

After 2 rounds, Phil shares lead at PGA

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — The short jab with his left fist to celebrate birdies and even a few pars. A thumbs-up to the gallery. Phil Mickelson at times looked to be about the only one having fun Friday in a PGA Championship that has become the ultimate test without being extreme.

The 50-year-old Mickelson looked like the Mickelson of old on another windswept grind around the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, running off five birdies over his last eight holes, the last one giving him a 3-under 69 and a share of the lead.

"To know I'm playing well heading into the weekend, to be in contention, to have a good opportunity, I'm having a blast," Mickelson said.

Mickelson shared the lead with Louis Oosthuizen, who didn't make a bogey until his final hole, and his 68 allowed him to join Mickelson at 5-under 139.

The opportunity for Mickelson includes his bid to become golf's oldest major champion and to show he can still beat the best in the world.

Brooks Koepka had a pair of eagles offset by four bogeys and scrambled for par on the 18th hole for a 1-under 71 that left him one shot behind in conditions he loves.

— Associated Press

PREP GIRLS GOLF

Panthers claim 5A state title

BY MARK MORICAL
The Bulletin

To give his players an edge, Redmond girls golf coach Jeff Roundtree set up a video chat the night before the 5A state final with his long-time friend Brian Watts, former men's golf coach at Oregon State and Army West Point.

"He talked with the girls for about an hour, giving them some great insight on how to stay relaxed and play within themselves," Roundtree said. "He came up with a key word for them to think about when they were playing to keep them relaxed if things went bad, and

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that was 'cool beans.'"

The result for the Panthers was certainly "cool beans," as the Redmond girls went on to win their first ever state championship Wednesday at Pine Ridge Golf Club in Springfield.

While the tournament was not sanctioned by the Oregon School Activities Association, due to scheduling issues stemming from the COVID-pandemic, the Panthers are considered 5A state champions for all intents and purposes.

"As it turned out, it's not OSAA, they're not recognizing it, but we had more of a turnout for the 5A championship than we would have in a regular 5A OSAA championship," Roundtree said. "Teams had to go through regional qualifying to get there."

The Panthers had three girls finish in the top five on their way to a team score of 393, winning by a whopping 29 strokes. Silverton was second (422) and Crescent Valley took third (434). Ridgeview finished seventh (446) and Crook County was eighth (460).

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Submitted photo

Members of the Redmond girls golf team, from left to right, Bayley Gustaveson, Klanci Hinton, coach Jeff Roundtree, McKenzie Richardson, Elizabeth Richardson and Mae Doty pose with their Class 5A state title trophy at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Springfield.

PREP SOFTBALL

Bears find their energy switch



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Bend High softball coach Tom Mauldin talks with his team during practice on Tuesday.

Bend High, 16-1, has been utterly dominant this season, but faces a tough test in its final game on Saturday

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
The Bulletin

There is a word that rarely, if ever, is said among the coaches and players in the Bend High softball program. And if it is used, the players know something is off — way off.

The word is "effort." Instead, the word "energy" is more likely to be heard.

"When coach tells us to give more effort we know something is wrong because we never get told to put more effort into something. It's very rare to hear."

— Allison Parker, Bend High softball player

The switch has had a positive impact on the Lava Bear program, which will play its final game of the season Saturday night on the road against McNary High in Keizer in a clash between two of the state's top prep softball teams.

"When coach tells us to give more effort we know something is wrong because we never get

told to put more effort into something," said sophomore Allison Parker. "It's very rare to hear."

However, the change from "effort" to "energy" is a relatively new one for 70-year-old Bend High coach Tom Mauldin, who has spent time coaching at Redmond and Sisters High, Walla Walla Community College and the College of Idaho.

Four years ago, while working with a pre-teen pitcher, Mauldin challenged the effort of the young pitcher still learning the ropes of the sport.

Mauldin was about the same age of that pitcher more than a half-century ago when his father, a former professional baseball player, voiced his displeasure with his son's work ethic.

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Steve Dykes/AP

Denver Nuggets' Markus Howard, left, drives to the basket on Portland Trail Blazers' Carmelo Anthony on Sunday in Portland.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Blazers' Carmelo Anthony prepares to face Denver in playoffs for first time

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Carmelo Anthony has been around the NBA for quite some time but he's never faced the team that launched his career in the playoffs.

Until now.

Anthony's current team, the Portland Trail Blazers, faces the Denver Nuggets in a first-round best-of-seven series

starting Saturday.

Anthony said he hadn't realized that he'd never faced the Nuggets in the postseason. But so much has changed since he wore a Denver jersey.

"It's a lot different now. My mindset is different. My goals are different. We're going in there trying to win," he said.

"So, it's a different type of mentality, but deep down inside I know that Denver will

always hold a special place for me."

A 10-time All-Star, Anthony is ready for another chance at an NBA championship, something that has so far eluded him in his storied 18-year career and 12 trips to the postseason.

Last season, Portland was eliminated in five games by the Los Angeles Lakers.

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