

# Korean hitters try to succeed in major league baseball

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in that category, including 2010, when he hit a home run in nine consecutive games en route to a career-best 44.

After moving to the NPB, Lee averaged more than 24 home runs with the Orix Blue Wave and the Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks. Last season, he led Fukuoka to the Japan Series by hitting 31 home runs, his best output since 2010. After the Hawks won the series, Lee became the first Korean player to be named as series MVP.

Though he sounds as promising as Park, Lee is five years older and 100 pounds heavier than Park. This adds enough uncertainty for Seattle to sign Lee, a free agent, to just a minor-league deal. He has hit .250 so far in spring training, with one home run, but he has looked impressive enough that he is expected to make the Opening Day roster.

On top of the two KBO and six NPB pitchers currently in MLB, Asian-



**LOOKING FOR HITTERS.** Jung-ho Kang of the Pittsburgh Pirates rounds third base on his way to scoring against the Milwaukee Brewers in the sixth inning of a baseball game last season. Kang scored on a single by Chris Stewart. (AP Photo/Fred Vuich, File)

American sports fans will have these new Korean hitters to watch and cheer for. If these hitters can succeed

in MLB the way Ichiro and other Japanese position players have, expect many more to follow.

## China through to final stage of 2018 World Cup qualifiers

By John Duerden  
The Associated Press

**X**IAN, China — China advanced to the final Asian qualifying round for the World Cup for the first time since 2002 after a 2-0 victory over Qatar.

Second-half goals in Xian from Huang Bowen and Wu Lei were enough to defeat the group leaders and send China through to the last 12 as one of the best four runners-up from the eight groups, as the second round of Asian qualification concluded.

China joins group winners Japan, South Korea, Australia, Iran, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Qatar and the other three best second-place teams United Arab Emirates, Syria, and Iraq in the final stage for the 2018 tournament in Russia.

Backed by almost 50,000 fans, China knew that nothing less than a win would keep their hopes alive and Huang's low shot from the edge of the area after 57 minutes broke the deadlock against Group E winner Qatar.

With two minutes remaining, Wu Lei scored to seal the win.

"It was a tough game," said China

### Man accused of fraud scheme that promised Hmong homeland

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — The U.S. Attorney's office in Minnesota has charged a man with operating a fraud scheme that targeted Hmong elders by promising them a homeland in Southeast Asia.

Forty-eight-year-old Seng Xiong faces one count of wire fraud. Federal prosecutors accuse Xiong of stealing more than \$1.3 million from elderly Hmong victims.

Xiong was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport before he could

coach Gao Hongbo. "But the players did what they had to do. We will enjoy this result for a little while before thinking about what comes next."

A first-half double from Tim Cahill helped Australia to a 5-1 win over Jordan. Aaron Mooy also scored as Australia went 3-0 up at halftime before Tomas Rogic and Massimo Luongo completed the scoring for the host. Abdallah Deeb notched a late consolation goal in Harry Redknapp's last match in charge of Jordan.

Former Tottenham manager Redknapp agreed to a two-game deal for Jordan's final qualifiers. It beat Bangladesh 8-0 before the loss.

The result meant Australia finished top of Group B and ended Jordan's hopes of the final stage.

"They were a much stronger team than we were," Redknapp told Australian media. "They were sharper. I suppose it's difficult with the fitness levels with the lads mostly playing in Jordan in the football there, which is not such a high standard and I thought that showed tonight. There was a big gulf in class tonight."

Shinji Kagawa scored twice as Japan thrashed Syria 5-0 to head Group E. An own-goal by Syria's

board a flight for Thailand.

According to court documents, the police department in Appleton, Wisconsin received a tip in September that Hmong elders were being directed to deposit \$3,000 to \$5,000 into a bank account held in Xiong's name. In exchange, elders were promised 10 acres of land and a house in the future country.

A U.S. magistrate judge in Los Angeles denied bail for Xiong. His next court date is not set yet.

## Hmong-American poet Mai Der Vang wins prize for best debut

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A Hmong-American poet is this year's winner of the Walt Whitman Award, given for an outstanding debut book.

The Academy of American Poets informed The Associated Press that 34-year-old Mai Der Vang will receive a \$5,000 cash prize and a six-week residency in Umbria, Italy. Her collection, *Afterland*, inspired by the flight of the Hmong people caused by the so-called Secret War in Laos during the Vietnam War era, will be published next year by Graywolf Press. The academy will purchase thousands of copies for its members and feature Mai Der Vang in its *American Poets* magazine and on its website, <www.poets.org>.

Previous winners of the Whitman prize, established in 1975, include Nicole Cooley, Eric Pankey, and Alberto Rios.

### Man pleads guilty to laundering \$2M of fraudulent proceeds

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — A Glen Burnie man has pleaded guilty to laundering more than \$2 million obtained through various scams, including conspirators posing as IRS agents and demanding that victims pay taxes they didn't owe.

Prosecutors say in a news release that 43-year-old Kaushik Modi, a native of India living in the U.S. illegally, entered the plea in federal court in Baltimore.

According to his plea agreement, Modi bought prepaid debit cards, which conspirators loaded with money obtained in several scams.

Authorities say one scam involved people posing as IRS agents and calling victims to demand immediate payment for taxes they did not owe. The victims loaded the money onto the prepaid debit cards held in Modi's name.

Modi faces a maximum of 20 years in prison at sentencing on May 12.

### Los Angeles man gets prison for \$13M Verizon phone scam

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — A Los Angeles man is going to federal prison for a fraud scheme that involved buying 30,000 iPhones from Verizon.

Karen Galstian was sentenced to more than eight years in prison for that scam and an unrelated bank fraud.

Galstian ran a ride-sharing business in Glendale called Toro Ride. Prosecutors say he convinced Verizon to sell him thousands of \$500 iPhones for 99 cents each under contract, claiming they'd be used by drivers in his nationally expanding business.

Instead, most of the phones were sold to companies that in turn shipped them overseas to China, Iraq, and other countries.

Authorities say Galstian made more than \$13 million in profits. He was ordered to pay \$17 million in restitution. He earlier entered guilty pleas to wire and bank fraud.

### Paul Trudeau never had it so good

Continued from page 6

Tyler finished the song with a flourish, and the crowd ate it up, jumping and shouting, slapping him on the back when he walked down from the stage and giving him high fives. I'd never seen anything like it.

They obviously didn't know Tyler was just trying to give his mom a hard time. Funny thing is, at the end of the song, with a big smile on his face and a big hug from mom, giving her a hard time was probably the last thing on his mind.

A genius or a fraud? Who knows. But for a few minutes at a karaoke bar in a cruise lounge, it was a pretty sweet moment, and I owe it all to ~~Paul Trudeau~~ ... er ... Neil Diamond, that is.

To view the video online, visit <<http://youtu.be/sN-Czjqpk8Y>>.

## su | do | ku

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		1	4			5	
2					9		
		9	1	7		8	4
	9					7	8
		2		8		6	
4		3					1
8		5		3	1	4	
			9				7
	1				2	5	

Difficulty level: Easy #14529

**Instructions:** Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

### Solution to last issue's puzzle

Puzzle #19237 (Hard)

All solutions available at <[www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)>.

6	2	3	8	1	7	5	4	9
5	4	9	2	6	3	8	7	1
1	8	7	9	4	5	2	6	3
9	7	6	4	2	8	3	1	5
4	1	8	3	5	6	9	2	7
2	3	5	7	9	1	4	8	6
8	6	4	5	7	9	1	3	2
7	9	2	1	3	4	6	5	8
3	5	1	6	8	2	7	9	4

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