

## Major League Baseball

# Darvish flirts with perfection

HOUSTON (AP)—Texas manager Ron Washington was certainly impressed as he watched Yu Darvish flirt with perfection.

He was even more blown away when he saw a television replay of the Japanese star coming within an out of the second perfect game in Rangers history.

"It wasn't as nasty looking from the side as it was when I saw it on TV," Washington said Wednesday. "He was nasty. I mean, his ball was moving all over the place. He had his cutter working. He had a breaking ball. He threw some splits. He threw a couple of change-ups. He threw very few four-seamers. To watch it after the fact, I said he was dominating."

The celebrated right-hander struck out a career-high 14 in a 7-0 win over the

Houston Astros on Tuesday night. He was in complete control before Marwin Gonzalez grounded the first pitch he saw up the middle with two outs in the ninth inning.

Darvish was unable to get his glove down in time and the ball skittered into center field well beyond a desperate dive by shortstop Elvis Andrus.

Washington immediately went to the mound and signaled for a reliever after the hit by Gonzalez. He'd decided in the eighth inning that he'd pull him the moment there was a hit or a walk.

"He hadn't thrown that many pitches in spring training so I felt that when perfection was over, that was it," Washington said. "We would have brought someone else in and hoped they could have got us what we needed to fin-

ish the game off."

Of course, Washington didn't want to see Darvish lose the perfect game, but if it had to end, he was relieved it ended on a hit instead of a walk.

"I felt like if he would have walked that guy, he was gone," Washington said of Chris Carter, who took him to a full count before striking out in the eighth. "I'm glad (Gonzalez) got a base hit because I would have had darts in my back if I walked out there after a walk."

The Rangers were a bit concerned about Darvish's pitch count getting too high Tuesday night since he'd pitched a high of 78 pitches this spring. Darvish, who threw 111 pitches on Tuesday night, acknowledged after the game that it was getting difficult in the late innings.

"In spring training I didn't throw more than 80 pitches, so I felt really fatigued," he said.

Some wondered if Darvish attempted to talk Washington into letting him stay on the mound after the hit. Washington had a little fun answering that question.

"No, because I don't understand Japanese," he said with a chuckle.

Darvish didn't seem overly troubled that his bid to make history came just short. He even went so far as to say that Tuesday night's performance wasn't his best on the mound. The 26-year-old thought he was better in a game in September against the Royals when he didn't allow a baserunner through 5 2-3 innings.

That, Washington said is one of the great things about Darvish.



AP PHOTO

Texas Rangers starting pitcher Yu Darvish waves to the crowd after leaving the game after carrying a no-hitter into the ninth inning against the Houston Astros Tuesday in Houston.

## Tennis

# Lehman stays perfect with win

Staff Reports

## WAPAKONETA

Lehman stayed perfect on the young season after another victory on Wednesday, defeating Wapakoneta on the road 4-1.

At first singles, Pierce Bennett defeated Drew Wayman 6-0, 6-1. At second singles, Sam Dean defeated Zach Holtzaple 6-1, 6-2.

At first doubles, Mitchell Shroyer and

Noah Dunn defeated Ben Schroer and Joe Pitts 6-0, 6-3. At second doubles, Riley Pickrel and Louis Gaier defeated Jordan Dodds and Colt Place 6-0, 6-0.

The only loss came at third singles, where Josh West lost to Matt Ewing 6-4, 6-4.

Lehman, now 3-0, hosts Celina Monday.

## Baseball/Softball

# Roundup

■ CONTINUED FROM 13

innings, settling down after some early struggles to earn the win, and Sanders shut the Braves down in the final two innings for a save.

"Ben hung in there and battled," Welker said. "He settled down and threw a nice game, and Nick came in and threw strikes — something we didn't do Tuesday."

Troy returns home today to host Beavercreek in a Greater Western Ohio Conference crossover matchup.

Troy .....000 305 0 — 8 6 1  
Shaw .....201 000 0 — 3 8 2  
Langdon, Sanders (6) and Nadolny. Bostick, Rice (6) and Zinkhon. WP — Langdon. LP — Bostick. SV — Sanders. 2B — Moeller (T). Records: Troy 3-1, Springfield Shawnee 0-2.

Butler 2,  
Tippecanoe 1  
VANDALIA

Tippecanoe couldn't get the big hit with runners on, and Butler was able to squeeze a pair of runs home in one key inning to hand the Red Devils their first loss of the season Wednesday, 2-1.

The loss, though, doesn't take away from the solid game that Cole Quillen pitched. The sophomore struck out four, walked only one and gave up seven hits.

"Cole threw well," Tippecanoe coach Bruce Cahill said. "This game was a really good test for him as a sophomore. We just had an inning where we didn't go after balls aggressively on defense."

"We didn't have any errors, but we had a couple of guys playing positions they don't normally play and some balls were hit to them that they maybe didn't go after the way they should have. They took advantage of that in one inning, and we didn't take advantage of their errors."

Ben Hughes continued his hot start to the season, going 3 for 3 and driving in the Devils' only run. Through three games, he already has eight hits.

Tippecanoe (2-1) faces off against Wayne at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Fifth Third Field.

Tipp .....000 010 0 — 1 6 0  
Butler .....002 000 x — 2 7 3  
Quillen and Gilliam. Larger and Yorgen. WP — Larger. LP — Quillen. 2B — Lawson (B). Records: Tippecanoe 2-1, Butler



CIVITAS MEDIA PHOTO/LUKE GRONNEBERG

Miami East's Brandon Kirk tags out Lehman's Max Schutt on a pickoff play at second base Wednesday at Lehman.

3-0.

Lehman 6,  
Miami East 2  
SIDNEY — Miami East simply missed its chances, while Lehman capitalized on the few it got.

The Vikings (1-1), who opened the season Saturday with a 17-8 rout of Botkins, outhit the Cavaliers but couldn't find ways to push runs across the plate, while Lehman made three Miami East errors in the field hurt in a 6-2 Cavs victory Wednesday in Sidney.

Michael Fellers was 3 for 4 with a double, Braxton Donaldson was 2 for 2 with a double, Bryant Miller was 2 for 2 and Evan Bowling doubled as Miami East outhit Lehman 9-5 but left nine runner on base.

"There were three innings where we had runners on second and third and one out and didn't score," Miami East coach Barry Coomes said. "You've got to put the ball in play in situations like that. But we're young. We're going to work on them."

Miami East hosts Versailles today.

ME .....001 010 0 — 2 9 3  
Leh .....200 112 x — 6 5 0  
Fellers, Kinnison (5) and Donaldson. Proffit, Copella (5) and Ilderman. WP — Proffit. LP — Fellers. 2B — Donaldson (M), Fellers (M), Bowling (M), Bosway (L). Records: Miami East 1-1.

Softball  
Miami East 10,  
Lehman 3

SIDNEY — After jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the first at Lehman, Miami East took it easy for a bit.

Lehman tying the game up in the fourth, though,

gave the Vikings a much-needed jolt.

Miami East (2-2) broke that tie up with a five-run fifth inning, putting away a 10-3 victory at Lehman to even its record on the season.

"We put it on cruise control for a few innings after scoring two in the top of the first," Miami East coach Brian Kadel said. "When they tied it up in the fourth, cashed in on a couple of fielding errors by us, it definitely woke us up."

"After that we started hitting the ball hard and were stringing some hits together, and we finished the game off right."

Madison Linn was 3 for 4 with a double, a triple and two RBIs, Christine Bowling doubled, Paige Kiesewetter tripled and Taylor Miller was 2 for 3.

And Kiesewetter got the win, entering the game in the fourth inning and striking out 12 batters in relief.

"She spotted the ball well," Kadel said of Kiesewetter. "She came on in relief of Sam (Denlinger), and her pitches were moving well. Lehman had a hard time figuring her out."

Miami East hosts Versailles today.

ME .....200 053 0 — 10 12 2  
Leh .....000 201 0 — 3 6 3  
Denlinger, Kiesewetter (4) and O'Neal. Bundy and Harrelson. WP — Kiesewetter. LP — Bundy. 2B — Bowling (M), Linn (M). 3B — Linn (M), Kiesewetter (M). Records: Miami East 2-2.

Madison 14,  
Milton-Union 13  
MIDDLETOWN

After an eight-run first

inning, the Bulldogs may

have expected to win. But Madison made Milton-Union pay for all of its mistakes on defense.

Madison capitalized on seven Bulldog errors, particularly in a seven-run fourth inning. And though Milton-Union fought back to tie its Southwestern Buckeye League Buckeye Division opener in the top of the seventh, Madison was able to score again in the bottom of the inning to claim a 14-13 victory Wednesday.

"This was our first league game, and our defense let us down, especially in the fourth," Milton-Union coach Curt Schaefer said. "We'd got a lot of work to do on defense. We're not where we need to be yet."

Ashley Smith — who was stuck with the loss on the mound in relief — was 3 for 5 with a pair of solo homers and drove in three runs to lead the Milton-Union offense. Kayla Smith was 2 for 3 with three RBIs, Christine Heisey was 2 for 5 with a triple, Haley Martens and Brittany Courtright both double and drove in two runs, Chelsey Smith drove in two runs and Jesse Bowman and Chloe Smith were each 2 for 4.

Milton-Union plays in Tippecanoe's Strike Out Cancer Tournament Friday at Kyle Park, taking on host Tippecanoe at 8 p.m.

M-U .....800 220 1 — 13 14 7  
Mad .....220 720 1 — 14 15 5  
Feters, A. Smith and Courtright. LP — A. Smith. 2B — Martens (MU), Courtright (MU). 3B — Heisey (MU). HR — A. Smith 2 (MU). Records: Milton-Union 2-2, 0-1.

## Major League Baseball

# Reds

■ CONTINUED FROM 13 only three hits and one

run on a wild pitch during a 3-1, 13-inning loss on opening day. He's expected to miss at least three months.

Phillips moved from second in the batting order into Ludwick's cleanup spot, where he'll stay for the foreseeable future. Reserve outfielder Chris Heisey becomes the everyday left fielder while Ludwick recuperates.

The new lineup had one very good inning. Heisey walked in the fourth inning, and so did Votto. Phillips, who flied out to the warning track in his first at-bat, then homered for a 3-0 lead. It was a breakthrough for the Reds, who managed

only three hits and one run on a wild pitch during a 3-1, 13-inning loss on opening day.

Jay Bruce followed with a double and scored on Todd Frazier's single.

Latos was on his game at the outset Wednesday, fanning seven in the first five innings. Once again, the bottom of the Angels' order produced the most.

The Angels' power hitters have failed to connect. Pujols is 0 for 7 with two strikeouts. Josh Hamilton signed for \$125 million in the offseason is 0 for 8 with three strikeouts.

The Angels have struck out 27 times in the first two games. They fanned 17 times in the opener.

## Major League Baseball

# Indians

■ CONTINUED FROM 13 a career-high 17 games

last season and ended the year with nine straight road losses, looked sharp in his season debut. Jimenez allowed one run and three hits in six innings, walked two and struck out six.

Brantley and Santana hit consecutive singles in the sixth, but Blue Jays starter Brandon Morrow ended his outing by getting Reynolds to ground into a double play.

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## National Hockey League

# Blue Jackets gear up for postseason with moves

COLUMBUS (AP) — The Blue Jackets have rarely been in a playoff race since they entered the league in 2000.

So, in this season of surprise for Columbus, they surely wanted to take advantage of their position in the Western Conference.

And so they did just that. Three-time NHL All-Star Marian Gaborik was the marquee player among four deals Wednesday as the improved Blue Jackets treated the trade deadline day as an opportunity to

gear up for the postseason.

Gaborik and minor league defenseman Steven Delisle and Blake Partlett were acquired from the New York Rangers for center Derick Brassard, right wing Derek Dorsett, defenseman John Moore and a sixth-round pick in the 2014 draft.

Entering play Wednesday night, Columbus was 11th overall in the West, but just one point out of the eighth and final playoff berth. The Blue Jackets have made the postseason just once in their his-

tory. "You can see," Gaborik said, "this team is going in the right direction."

Gaborik's salary is \$7.5 million this season and next. In the summer of 2014, he'll become an unrestricted free agent but the Blue Jackets think he's worth the flight risk. They hope a playoff run, and a fever pitch in town, can help convince him to sign a long-term deal.

Unlike most deadline days, when the Jackets traded some of their top tal-

ent away, they were in a position to be an aggressive bidder under president John Davidson and general manager Jarmo Kekalainen.

"For us to say we're buyers now shows we're all in throughout the whole organization," Blue Jackets forward Matt Calvert said. "It's a major positive, especially where we were a month or two ago."

The Blue Jackets (15-14-7) entered March with the fewest points in the NHL but went 10-2-4 for their

best month in history and know the final 12 games will have playoff implications.

"It's good to be playing these type of games this time of the year," Columbus forward R.J. Umberger said. "It's been a few years since these games meant something."

Columbus also dealt goalie Steve Mason to Philadelphia for Michael Leighton and a third round pick in 2015 in an exchange of backup goaltenders, and traded for Calgary forward

Blake Comeau, as well. The Flames received a fifth-round selection in 2013.

In a minor-league deal, the Jackets acquired goaltender Patrick Killeen from the Pittsburgh Penguins in exchange for future considerations.

At the end of the day, though, the key is Gaborik, 31, who has 666 points (333 goals) in 757 games and could be the replacement for Rick Nash, the Blue Jackets' career points leader, who was dealt to the Rangers last summer.