

# TCU Rallies For CWS Berth, 6-5 Over Pepperdine

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Kyle Bacak executed a suicide squeeze bunt to send home the tiebreaking run in the top of the ninth inning and TCU rallied to beat Pepperdine 6-5 Monday and advance to the College World Series for the second time in five seasons. The Horned Frogs (47-16), the visiting team in Game 3 despite hosting the super regional, started the ninth with three consecutive hits off Pepperdine closer Eric Karch (4-2) that included Dylan Fitzgerald's tying RBI double. There was an infield popout before No. 9 batter Bacak

bunted. Jerriker Suiter, who had reached on a high-chopping infield single, charged home from third. TCU closer Riley Ferrell (2-1) got the final six outs. Pepperdine (43-18) had two runners on when Bryan Langlois struck out to end the game. The Frogs play their College World Series opener Sunday

against fellow Big 12 team Texas Tech. A third Big 12 team, Texas, is on the other side of the bracket in Omaha, Nebraska. The first batter Ferrell faced in the eighth with two men on was Brad Anderson, whose sacrifice fly put Pepperdine up 5-4. Brandon Caruso and Aaron Brown homered for the Waves, the West Coast Conference regular-season champ trying to get to the College World Series for the first time since winning the 1992 national championship.



TCU pitcher Brian Triageff (21, facing) celebrates with teammate Riley Ferrell (12) after defeating Pepperdine University in the NCAA Super Regional baseball game Monday. TCU came from behind to win 6-5 to advance to the College World Series. TOM FOX/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

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## Amateur Baseball | South Central League

# Erdmann Flying High For 'Jays



Crofton pitcher Seth Erdmann, pictured here during a game last summer, is off to a strong start this season for the undefeated Bluejays. Erdmann missed all of last year's regular season after suffering a torn ACL, but returned for the post-season.

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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CROFTON, Neb. — Seth Erdmann is back. Healthy from yet another surgery that cost him almost all of last summer, the 24-year-old pitcher for the Crofton Bluejays has reclaimed his spot as one of the most reliable arms in a stacked rotation. But it hasn't been his arm that has been the focus for Erdmann, a Crofton native. It's been his knees. In total, Erdmann has had four surgeries, three knee operations and another on his right wrist. "My velocity isn't like it used to be," he said Monday night. In place of the 90 mile-per-hour fastball that used to be his staple, Erdmann has relied more on control and hitting his spots. And to those around him, the former college pitcher has developed into one of the top pitchers in the South Central League. "He's confident. He doesn't throw a ton of different pitches, it's more of a, 'This is what I got, try to hit it,'" said Crofton manager and catcher Carl Schieffer, whose team is 6-0 in league play. And so far this season, not many teams have hit Erdmann. In three league starts, he has pitched 17 innings and allowed two runs. Erdmann has twice combined with reliever Rand Thygeson on a 2-hit shutout — Erdmann pitched five innings against Scotland and seven innings against Tabor last week. His other start was a 5-inning stint against the Class A Yankton Tappers, a team Erd-

## SCL STANDINGS

	W	L	Per	GB
Crofton	6	0	1.000	—
Yankton	4	1	.800	1.5
Irene	4	1	.800	1.5
Avon	3	2	.600	2.5
Tabor	3	2	.600	2.5
Wynot	3	2	.600	2.5
Freeman	2	3	.400	3.5
Lesterville	1	4	.200	4.5
Scotland	0	5	.000	5.5
Menno	0	6	.000	6

**Sunday, June 8**  
Avon at Yankton, ppd.  
Freeman at Lesterville, ppd.  
Crofton 10, Menno 3  
Tabor at Scotland  
Wynot at Irene, ppd.

**Tuesday, June 10**  
Menno at Scotland  
Avon at Irene

**Thursday, June 12**  
Irene at Crofton  
Wynot at Avon  
Yankton at Tabor

**Friday, June 13**  
Lesterville at Scotland

**Sunday, June 15**  
Freeman at Menno  
Yankton at Lesterville  
Crofton at Wynot

mann admits to being "nervous" to face because of their roster filled with college players.

Still, he said, "maybe being nervous helped me. I was extra cautious."

Particularly with his left knee, which has a reconstructed ACL. Erdmann suffered the injury in March 2013, and missed all of the regular season before returning to the District 6B championship game — which he pitched and led Crofton to a win.

"My doctor didn't want me to play, but my physical therapist said I probably could try," Erdmann said. "It was a pretty easy decision from there."

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## Pillar's Single Lifts Blue Jays Over Twins 5-4

TORONTO (AP) — Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer in the first inning, Kevin Pillar singled home the winning run in the ninth and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Minnesota Twins 5-4 on Monday night. The first two batters of the game homered for the Twins off R.A. Dickey, but Encarnacion's 20th of the season soon put Toronto ahead. Jose Reyes added a solo shot for the Blue Jays, who squandered a two-run lead

in the top of the ninth and then recovered to avoid their first three-game skid since May 9-11. Dioner Navarro drew a leadoff walk from Matt Guerrier (0-1) and was replaced by pinch-runner Erik Kratz. Anthony Gose struck out trying to bunt and Casey Fien came on to face Reyes, who singled. Pillar followed with a single to right, and Kratz slid home headfirst ahead of the throw from Oswaldo Arcia.

Casey Janssen (1-0) got the win after blowing his second save. Newly signed slugger Kendrys Morales made his Twins debut, batting sixth and starting as the designated hitter. He went 1 for 3 with a single and a walk. Encarnacion erased a 2-0 deficit with a two-out shot off Ricky Nolasco in the first. Baltimore's Nelson Cruz, with 21 home runs, is the only other player with 20 this season.

## AP Source: Fisher Agrees To Coach Knicks

BY BRIAN MAHONEY  
AP Basketball Writer

Derek Fisher has agreed to become the next coach of the New York Knicks and will be introduced at a news conference Tuesday morning, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The Knicks did not confirm the hiring, other than saying they were planning a "major announcement." The person who confirmed the deal to AP spoke on condition of anonymity because neither side authorized the public disclosure of any information related to the deal. The 39-year-old Fisher just completed his 18th season, finishing his career with the Oklahoma City Thunder. He played under Knicks President Phil Jackson with the Los Angeles Lakers, and helped that franchise win five NBA titles. Fisher would have been

an unrestricted free agent this summer, though it was widely known that this season would be his last as a player. And once the Knicks failed to close a deal with Steve Kerr — who wound up accepting an offer from Golden State — Fisher was believed to be the next target on Jackson's list. Jackson was fined \$25,000 for the league last week for a tampering violation involving Fisher. He was still under contract with the Thunder when Jackson told New York reporters that Fisher was "on my list of guys that could be very good candidates" to replace Mike Woodson on the Knicks' sideline. Fisher surely could still play. He has just suspected for a while that his time has come to do something else. "Coaching allows for you

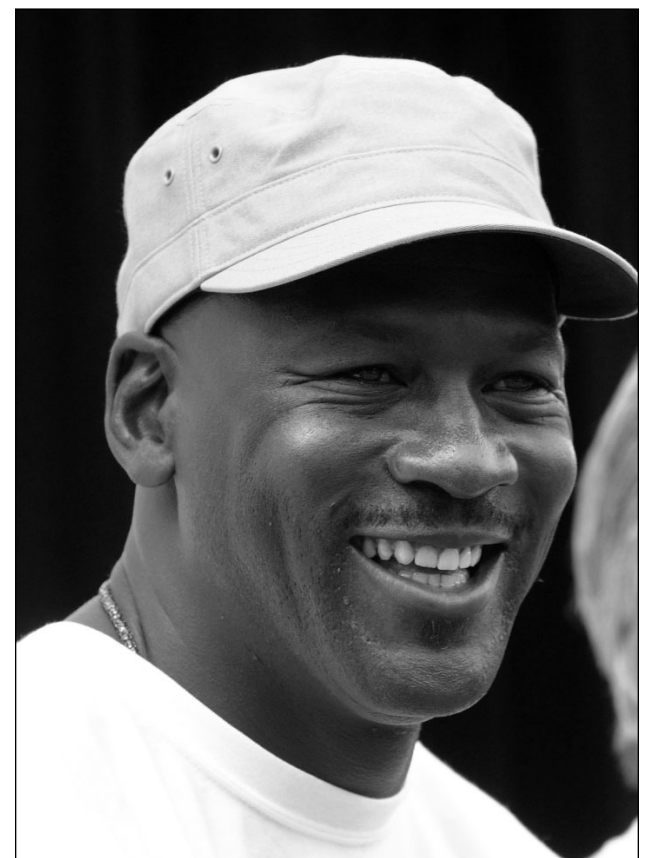


Fisher

to positively impact other people's lives," Fisher told reporters during his exit interview after Oklahoma City's season ended. "To help a group of people find success, whether they have or haven't before, you're all working together for a common goal." Fisher's hiring means that next season, both teams in New York will have former point guards barely removed from playing days at the helms. It worked for the Brooklyn Nets, who made the Eastern Conference semifinals this season with first-year coach Jason Kidd, and now the Knicks will hope that Fisher can have the same success. His hiring is the first significant step in what's expected to be a broad makeover of the team by Jackson, who was hired late in the regular season to turn around the fortunes of a franchise that has won just one playoff series in the past 14 years.

## Jordan: Hornets Can Upgrade

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Michael Jordan anticipates the Charlotte Hornets will make another big splash this offseason. Jordan said Monday with three draft picks and more than \$13 million to spend in free agency the Hornets are in position to make a "big difference" in upgrading their roster. "I think we made a difference last year with Big Al (Jefferson) and some of the acquisitions — and I don't anticipate this year being any different," Jordan said. Behind Jefferson, who was recently named third-team All-NBA, Charlotte made the playoffs for the first time since 2010 — the year Jordan took over as majority owner. Jordan is hoping Jefferson's success will convince other big-name free agents to come to Charlotte. "I always thought Charlotte was a great destination," Jordan said. "Big Al has proven that you can come here and make a big difference. Hopefully we can look at that and attract some other superstars." Jordan spoke Monday following a presentation at Hornets Nest Elementary school in which he, along with Lowe's and Fox SportsSouth, donated \$250,000 to Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. The event marked the organization's first community service initiative since the changing its name from Bobcats to Hornets last month. The Hornets have the ninth, 24th and 45th picks in this month's draft. If forward Josh McRoberts decides not to opt out of contract the Hornets will have all five starters from last season under contract — and still have at least \$13 million to spend under the NBA salary cap. If McRoberts opts out



ISABELLA BARTOLUCCI/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT  
Michael Jordan attends the opening of the Hornets Day of Service at Hornets Nest Elementary School on Monday in Charlotte, N.C.

the team could have closer to \$17 million free under the cap. "This year we have a lot of flexibility and I've been speaking to that over the last three or four years — flexibility is very important and we are going to use every resource to try to better the team," Jordan said. Charlotte finished last season 43-39 and earned the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs. However, Jefferson injured his foot in the first game of the NBA playoffs and Charlotte was swept by the Miami Heat. Still, it was a big step in

the right direction for a franchise that went 28-120 over the two previous seasons, by far the worst record in the NBA during that span. Jordan said he was "very proud" of what his team accomplished under first-year coach Steve Clifford. "The guys came out and took the initiative from coach and he was able to bond (them) and put together a good effort from the team," Jordan said. Jordan said Jefferson, who signed a three-year, \$41 million contract last July 4 — the largest ever given out by the franchise — was better than advertised.

## Quick Pushes Kings To Brink Of Stanley Cup

NEW YORK (AP) — Jonathan Quick and the Los Angeles Kings are finishing off the New York Rangers in a big hurry. The Connecticut native, who grew up a fan of the Rangers and 1994 Stanley Cup-winning goalie Mike Richter, had his best game of the finals by far. He made 32 saves and put the Kings on the cusp of another coronation with a 3-0 victory over New York in Game 3 on Monday night. Los Angeles escaped with two overtime wins at home and then took complete command inside Madison Square Garden to take a 3-0 series edge. The Kings took their first

lead of the series on Jeff Carter's goal in the final second of the first period and then stretched the edge to three goals in the second — something the Rangers failed to do in California. New York is facing elimination Wednesday night in Game 4. While there has been only one comeback from a 3-0 hole in the finals, the Kings erased such a deficit in the first round against San Jose. Defenseman Jake Muzzin scored a power-play goal in the second period, and Mike Richards pushed the lead to three with a goal off a 2-on-1 in the middle frame. Henrik Lundqvist was hardly at fault on the goals,

and finished with 12 saves. But Quick was perfect. He made a brilliant save with his stick blade to deny Derick Brassard with 8:40 left in the second shortly after a Rangers power play. That stop came on the heels of Brassard having two chances during the advantage off a rebound of Brad Richards' shot. Brassard's first attempt was blocked, and the second was stopped by Quick. The Kings goalie was also on his toes just 8 seconds into the third period when Chris Kreider came in alone but was stopped in tight. That eliminated the little hope the sold-out, towel-waving crowd had of a big comeback.