

Fans, fellow stars show their love

Yankees great Derek Jeter the main attraction as the Baseball Hall of Fame inducts its latest class. **Page C4**



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JIM INGRAHAM

Rays proof success possible for Indians

Would you know a Tampa Bay Ray if you bumped into one on the street? Me neither.

Ever heard of Mike Zunino? He's Tampa Bay's catcher. His career batting average in his nine years in the league is .202. This year he's hit more home runs than Jose Abreu, Giancarlo Stanton, Franmil Reyes, Jose Altuve, J.D. Martinez, Carlos Correa, Carlos Santana and Miguel Cabrera.

That's right, Mike Zunino, proud owner of 29 dingers this year.

He plays for the best team in the American League, which is also the most ignored team in the American League — their average per-game home attendance is 8,487 — and the most anonymous team in the American League.

The White Sox look like the most powerful team in the AL this year, right? Looks aren't everything. Tampa Bay's run differential of plus-180 is 41 points higher than Chicago's.

Pop quiz: Which one of the following is the starting right fielder for the Tampa Bay Rays? Hercules Poirot, Manuel Margot or Silvio Dante?

The unknown Rays have scored 30 more runs than any other team in the American League.

At the start of play Wednesday, over their last four games, the Rays averaged 10 runs per game. The first time they played the Yankees this year they beat them 10-5. The last time they played the Yankees they beat them 14-0.

The Yankees' payroll is \$203 million.

The Rays' payroll is \$70 million, fifth lowest in the major leagues.

The lowest payroll in the majors? That would be your Indians, at \$48 million, according to Spotrac.

The future Guardians went into their game Wednesday with a record of 68-68, which is really quite good, considering that their entire starting rotation got wiped out by injuries. Finishing second in your division with an injury-riddled roster and the lowest payroll on the playground means they are doing something right.

But there seems to be a parallel between the Indians and Rays that is worth noting, which is this: what the Indians are trying to do is doable. They just have to do it a little better, do it like the Rays do it — and also be a little luckier.

What the Indians are trying to do, win on a shoestring budget, requires a different approach than that used by the swaggering, check-book-waving big-market baseball barons.

See **INGRAHAM, C3**

BOYS SOCCER



KRISTIN BAUER / CHRONICLE

Avon's Brandon Ferreira kicks the ball away from Elyria's Tim Rader and Bryon Schnetzler (8) on Wednesday.

Avon finds a way

Tim Gebhardt
The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA — Sometimes it's hard to tell just who won and who lost a soccer match.

Wednesday at Ely Stadium, Avon controlled the ball, the tempo, the clock and anything else on the field but could manage only one late second-half goal. Still, it was enough to beat Elyria 1-0 in Southwestern Conference play.

While Avon coach Chris Dore was

Eagles have just enough offense to get past Elyria

obviously glad with the result, he wasn't real pleased with his team's play.

"I'm happy to get a good result in terms of a win," Dore said. "Elyria worked especially hard to defend. Give them credit. It

made it very difficult, not just to get shots off but to get good shots off. I felt like the goal was going to come in the first half but it came late in the second half. I guess it's a good scenario from that standpoint but we would like a little bit more productivity moving forward."

Elyria coach Brett Heighberger, on the other hand, was elated with his team, especially on defense and especially goalkeeper John Freeman.

See **AVON, C2**

Amherst's Kadin Love jumps over Midview's Ryan Runser while chasing the ball.



KRISTIN BAUER / CHRONICLE

Comets' offense breaks through

Todd Shapiro
The Chronicle-Telegram

AMHERST — It was a bad night to be a goalkeeper Wednesday at the Amherst Soccer Complex

But it was a good night for Comets midfielders Alex Pennington and Blake Kubasik.

Pennington had a goal and two assists and Kubasik scored twice, including the go-ahead goal in the 67th minute, as Amherst defeated

Midview 5-3 in a Southwestern Conference match.

Kubasik scored in the 36th minute off a Pennington assist to give the Comets a 2-1 lead heading into halftime.

Midview (1-3-1, 0-2 SWC) answered when Kaiden Koch scored directly off a free kick from 30 yards out and tied the game again at 3 on a goal by Trent Roose off a Mason Kucera assist.

See **COMETS, C2**

TONIGHT

WHO: Cleveland vs. Minnesota
TIME: 6:10
WHERE: Progressive Field
PITCHERS: Quantrill (4-3, 3.15 ERA) vs. Dornak (1-7, 7.64)
TV/RADIO: Bally Sports Great Lakes; WEOL 930-AM and 100.3-FM, WTAM 1100-AM, WMMS 100.7-FM

TWINS 3, INDIANS 0

No hope against Ryan

Twins starter holds Indians to one hit, one baserunner in just his 2nd appearance

Brian Dulik
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — At least the Cleveland Indians avoided another no-hitter.

They almost didn't.

Joe Ryan took a perfect game into the seventh inning of his second big league appearance, helping the Minnesota Twins beat the Indians 3-0 on Wednesday.

The Indians have been held without a hit in three games this season though one was a seven-inning affair so it doesn't technically count as a no-hitter.

Ryan, who was acquired in a July trade with Tampa Bay for slugger Nelson Cruz, retired his first 19 batters before Amed Rosario lined a single through the left side of the infield with one out in the seventh.

"I was kind of like, shoot, when the ball went through, but then I moved on to how I was going to get the next hitter," Ryan said. "I just tried to keep it as simple as I could and hit my spots. Being in the big leagues has been great so far."

See **INDIANS, C3**

BROWNS

Erase to the future

Browns want fresh start, but KC loss provides fuel

Scott Petrak

The Chronicle-Telegram

BEREA — The Browns have tried to leave last season in the past. They're determined not to relax after the first playoff appearance in 18 years, and don't want to be defined by the 22-17 divisional round loss to the Chiefs.

"We erased last year," quarterback Baker Mayfield said Wednesday. "We're trying to start from Game 0 and move on from there."

An eraser isn't magic.

The Browns can't help but reflect on how last season ended with this one opening Sunday back at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. A key component of the film study is the loss Jan. 17 in which the offense struggled to get going then couldn't mount a drive late and the defense didn't get a stop in the final minutes despite quarterback Patrick Mahomes having exited the game.

The motivation has been simmering for eight months.

"That's something that's always in the back of your mind," Mayfield said. "It's the last time you stepped on the field for real and just knowing that you win that game, you're in the conference championship and the next game's the Super Bowl. Just knowing how close you are to that and all the little things matter, so for us, our goal this week is to do our job and focus on that and it's all the little things that matter."

Coach Kevin Stefanski wanted the coaches and players to use the loss as fuel — to a point.

See **BROWNS, C5**

NEXT UP

WHO: Cleveland vs. Kansas City
WHEN: Sunday, 4:25 p.m.
WHAT: Season opener

WHERE: GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Mo.

TV/RADIO: CBS WKNR 850-AM, WKRK 92.3-FM, WNCX 98.5-FM

INSIDE

SUPER-SIZED EXPECTATIONS:

The Browns have gone from league laughingstock to legitimate Super Bowl contenders. Find out how they did it and why this is shaping up as a year to remember in our Browns preview. **Section D**



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The Chronicle's Veteran Browns Reporter

Scott Petrak



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