

# Lauter pitches Bronco-Hermon to District 3 title

BANGOR — Jay Lauter pitched 4⅓ innings of two-hit, shutout ball on Wednesday to help Bronco-Hermon post a 10-0 victory over Old Town in the District 3 Junior League Baseball all-star championship game at Mansfield Stadium.

Lauter struck out two and walked two and was supported by a 13-hit attack, which produced five runs in the bottom of the fifth to end the game via the 10-run rule.

Mychal Beaulieu singled twice and knocked in a run to pace Bronco-Hermon (4-0), while Gavin Partridge stroked a two-run double. River Mullen rapped a double and a single.

Michael Brown and Dylan

Street hit first-inning singles to sweep all three regular-season meetings from Bangor.

R.H. Foster-Hampden (14-6) is the No. 3 seed, while Post 16 of Skowhegan (13-8), Brewer (12-9) and the Acadians (7-14) earned the final spots in the six-team Zone 1 tournament field.

Two play-in games are scheduled for Thursday, with No. 4 Skowhegan facing No. 5 Brewer at 5 p.m. and No. 3 R.H. Foster-Hampden against No. 6 Acadians at 8 p.m.

Thursday's winners advance to the double-elimination phase of the tournament that begins Friday with No. 2 Bangor facing the higher-seeded play-in game winner at 4 p.m. and No. 1 Post 51 against the lower-seeded play-in survivor at 7 p.m.

Post 51 gained that edge by

The tourney continues with three games Saturday on the new FieldTurf at the Winkin Complex, and the championship round is set for noon Sunday with an if-necessary game to follow.

The top two teams in the Zone 1 tournament advance to the eight-team state championship tourney that begins next Wednesday at the Capitol Area Recreation Association fields in Augusta.

**Brewer 12, Bangor 7**  
At Hedderic Field in Brewer, the Falcons scored 10 runs combined in the third and fourth innings to build a lead they would not relinquish in a Zone 1 contest.

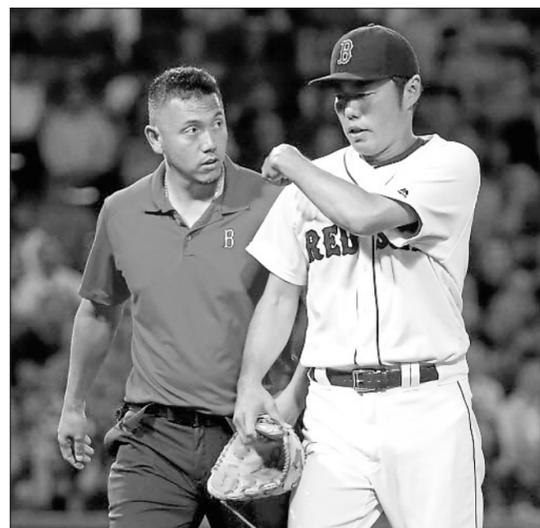
Garrett Hamlin drove in three runs with two singles for Brewer, while Jack Corey posted four singles and an RBI with three runs scored. Corey also worked two-plus innings in relief to notch the win.

Also for the Falcons, Alex Maximic poked a double and two singles with an RBI and Matt Pushard added two singles.

Jesse Colford led Coffee News of Bangor with two singles and two RBIs, while Andrew Hillier and Ben Crichton also each singled twice.

**Bangor 312 001 0 — 7 9 1**  
**Brewer 116 400 x — 12 15 3**

Peirce, Crichton (3), Hillier (5), Cowperthwaite (6) and Fournier; Pushard, Corey (3), Brooks (5), Gauvin (7) and Maximic



WINSLOW TOWNSON | USA TODAY SPORTS

Boston Red Sox relief pitcher Koji Uehara (right) is led off the field by a trainer after he was injured while pitching during the ninth inning of the Boston Red Sox 4-0 win over the San Francisco Giants at Fenway Park on Tuesday.

## Sox place reliever Koji Uehara on DL

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

The Boston Red Sox placed veteran right-handed reliever Koji Uehara on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday with a right pectoral strain.

Uehara (2-3, 4.50 ERA) tossed just seven pitches in the ninth inning of Tuesday's 4-0 victory over San Francisco before grasping his right arm. The 41-year-old native of Japan quickly summoned Red Sox manager John Farrell to the mound and promptly made his exit into the clubhouse.

Boston, which is already without the services of closer Craig Kimbrel (knee), is expected to turn to recently acquired veteran right-hander Brad Ziegler to finish off games. The 36-year-old Ziegler (2-3, 2.61 ERA) notched 18 saves with Arizona this season before being traded to the Red Sox on July 9.

"As we've had to go to other guys to step up, we'll look to do that. I can't tell you at this point how much time Koji will miss," Farrell said. Boston recalled right-hander Noe Ramirez from Triple-A Pawtucket on Wednesday to fill Uehara's roster spot. The 26-year-old has yet to record a decision this season and posted a 6.55 ERA in 11 appearances with the Red Sox.

**Dodgers' Wood out 8 weeks**

The Los Angeles Dodgers, who already had injury problems with their pitching staff, got more bad news on Wednesday when they learned that left-handed starter Alex Wood will undergo an arthroscopic debridement on his throwing elbow that will put him out of action for eight weeks.

It means his season probably is over.

On Tuesday, the Dodgers announced that Clayton Kershaw would be out indefinitely with his back

problem and that Hyun-jin Ryu would go on the disabled list with an elbow problem.

Now it's Wood. Wood has a 1-4 record with 3.99 ERA in 10 starts this season. He last pitched on May 30, when he pitched five innings, giving up seven hits and two runs.

Less than a week ago, he threw a simulated game that indicated he might return fairly soon. But things have deteriorated.

Four Dodgers starters are currently on the disabled list, with Brett Anderson being the fourth. Anderson is hoping to return by mid-August. It leaves Kenta Maeda, Scott Kazmir, Julio Urias, Bud Norris and Brandon McCarthy as the Dodgers options for starting pitchers.

**Mariners activate Hernandez**

The Seattle Mariners recalled Felix Hernandez from a rehab assignment and activated the right-handed starting pitcher from the 15-day disabled list.

The Mariners made several roster moves prior to Wednesday's game against the Chicago White Sox.

The team also recalled outfielder Norichika Aoki and catcher Mike Zunino from Triple-A Tacoma. Left-hander David Rollins, outfielder Daniel Robertson and catcher Jesus Sucre were optioned to Tacoma after Tuesday night's game.

Hernandez was the scheduled to start Wednesday's game, his first start since May 27.

Hernandez, 30, is 4-4 with a 2.86 ERA over 63 innings this season, with 53 strikeouts and 26 walks in 10 starts. Hernandez was placed on the 15-day disabled list with a right calf strain on June 1 (retroactive to May 28). In two rehab starts with Class A Everett and Tacoma, Hernandez was 1-0 with a 3.86 ERA over 9 1/3 innings, with 13 strikeouts and three walks.

starts Thursday and the U.S. Southeast, Southwest and Central tournaments begin Saturday.

All U.S. regionals are scheduled to be concluded July 27, followed by the Canadian championships on July 28.

U.S. Southwest representative West University Little League of Houston, Texas, is the two-time defending Senior League World Series champion.

## Blue Jays bash way past Diamondbacks

FROM WIRE REPORTS

PHOENIX — Josh Donaldson doubled, homered and drove in three runs and Edwin Encarnacion belted his 10th career homer at Chase Field in the Toronto Blue Jays' 10-4 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Wednesday afternoon.

Donaldson gave the Blue Jays a 2-0 lead two batters into the game, when he followed Darwin Barney's single with his 24th homer of the season.

Donaldson's double off the 25-foot fence above the 413-foot sign in left-center field with two outs in the sixth inning drove in a run to make it 6-1 and knock Arizona starter Patrick Corbin (4-9) out of the game.

Encarnacion capped a four-run eighth inning with his 26th homer of the season, his ninth in his last eight games at Chase Field. He leads the major leagues with 85 RBIs.

Barney had two hits and three RBIs, Devon Travis had three hits and Troy Tulowitzki and Kevin Pillar had two hits and an RBI as the Blue Jays (54-40) won for the 11th time in 14 games.

Marcus Stroman (8-4) gave up one run and eight hits in eight innings for his first victory on the road since beating Minnesota 3-1 on May 18. Stroman struck out six and did not walk a batter. All the hits off him were singles, and four were in the infield.

Tuffy Gosewisch hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning and Jean Segura had three hits for the Diamondbacks (40-55), who have lost two in a row and seven of nine. They are 17-35 at home.

**Rays 11, Rockies 3**

DENVER — It took more than a month, but the Tampa Bay Rays were finally able to celebrate the modest achievement of back-to-back victories Wednesday.

They pounded the Colorado Rockies 11-3 in the rubber game of their series. The win



MARK J. REBILAS | USA TODAY SPORTS

Toronto Blue Jays third baseman Josh Donaldson (left) slides safely into second base ahead of the tag by Arizona Diamondbacks second baseman Jean Segura in the fifth inning at Chase Field on Wednesday.

was just the third in 12 games and fifth in 31 for the Rays, who hadn't won consecutive games since June 14-15. The Rays also won their first series since taking two of three June 24-27 against Boston and first road series since winning two of three June 6-8 at Arizona.

Chris Archer (5-13) broke a six-game losing streak that was one shy of his career high and won for the first time since June 6. While throwing 105 pitches in six innings in his Coors Field debut, Archer allowed four hits and two runs with two walks and 11 strikeouts, one shy of his season high. Archer struck out the final five and eight of the final 10 batters he faced.

The Rays outscored the Rockies 25-11 in the series, which left Colorado 3-3 since the All-Star break and a season-high-tying eight games below .500. The Rockies yielded 10 or more runs in consecutive games for the first time since April 8-9 against San Diego. The Rays reached double-digit run totals in consecutive games for the first time since May 16-17 at Toronto.

Tim Beckham, who went 5-for-5, drove in two runs, as did Steven Souza Jr. and Steve Pearce as the Rays did most of their damage against Jorge De La Rosa (6-7) and

drove him from the game after a five-run fourth. De La Rosa allowed season highs in runs (nine) and hits (11) and tied his season high in earned runs allowed (seven) while throwing 91 pitches in four innings.

**Cubs 6, Mets 2**

CHICAGO — Anthony Rizzo homered twice and right-hander Kyle Hendricks struck out seven in six-plus scoreless innings as the Chicago Cubs breezed to a 6-2 win over the New York Mets on Wednesday.

The victory gave the Cubs (57-37) two wins in the three-game series while the Mets (50-44) suffered their second loss in three games.

Rizzo, who went 2-for-4, collected his 23rd and 24th home runs of the season and now ranks second in the NL behind teammate Kris Bryant.

Hendricks (9-6) won his four straight and fifth since June 19, a run that included one no-decision.

Mets right-hander Bartolo Colon (8-5) was chased in the fifth inning after giving up Rizzo's second homer of the afternoon, a three-run shot to right.

**Indians 11, Royals 4**

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — Mike Naquin belted two home runs and drove in six

runs, while Carlos Carrasco gave up one hit in six dominant innings as the Cleveland Indians thrashed the Kansas City Royals 11-4 Wednesday.

Naquin hit a solo homer in the third, a two-run double in the fourth and a three-run blast in a seven-run fifth inning. Naquin's six RBIs are a career high and it was his first multi-homer game.

Carrasco (7-3) retired the first 10 Royals before Cheslor Cuthbert doubled in the fourth, the only hit he would permit. Kansas City did not have another base runner until Whit Merrifield and Cuthbert walked with two outs in the sixth. Carrasco, who is 5-1 in his past six starts, was removed after 85 pitches, including 25 in the sixth inning.

Jason Kipnis, Mike Napoli and Carlos Santana also homered for the Indians.

The loss dropped the defending World Series champion Royals to .500 (47-47) and nine games in arrears of the Indians in the American League Central. The Indians, who own the best record (56-38) in the league, also gained a game on second-place Detroit, which lost to the last-place Minnesota Twins to fall 7½ games back.

## Gordon to replace Earnhardt for next two

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Retired driver Jeff Gordon will return to the race track for this weekend's Brickyard 400 to replace Dale Earnhardt, who continues to battle concussion-like symptoms.

Hendrick Motorsports made it official Wednesday that the 44-year-old Gordon will take the wheel and return to Sprint Cup racing for the next two weekends. Earnhardt has not been medically cleared to drive in Sunday's race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Earnhardt, who sat out last Sunday's New Hampshire 301, also will miss the following race at Pocono on July 31.

Gordon retired as a full-time Sprint Cup driver for the Hendrick Motorsports No. 24 car at the end of last season and now works as a NASCAR analyst for FOX Sports. He will replace Earnhardt in the No. 88 Chevrolet for the next two races.

"I think Jeff will do well," team owner Rick Hendrick said Sunday when talking about the possibility of Gor-

don's return. "He's won that race a lot of times. He's been out of the car this year. I expect if he gets in the car, he might be a little bit rusty, but we've got a lot of practice time and I don't think it'll take Gordon long to get back in the groove."

Gordon, a four-time Sprint Cup Series champion, retired following a 23-year career with 93 wins in 797 starts. Gordon, an equity owner in Hendrick Motorsports, has run in every Brickyard race since the inaugural event in 1994, winning a record five times — "1994, 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2014.

Gordon was on vacation in France last week when he received the call from Hendrick asking him to fill in for Earnhardt if he wasn't able to race.

Alex Bowman took the reins of the No. 88 from Earnhardt at New Hampshire Motor Speedway last Sunday, finishing 26th.

Hendrick said it has yet to be determined whether Gordon continues to drive for Earnhardt if needed.

"Jeff's a team player," Hendrick said in a news release Wednesday. "I know he'll be ready, and I know Dale has incredible trust in him. It's going to be an emotional weekend (at Indianapolis) with Dale not being there and seeing Jeff back behind the wheel."

"Our focus is giving Dale all the time he needs to recover. There's nothing we want more than to see him back in the race car, but we'll continue to listen to the doctors and follow their lead. What's best for Dale is what's best for Hendrick Motorsports and everyone involved with the team. We're all proud of him and looking forward to having him racing soon."

Earnhardt missed two races in 2012 for concussion-related issues after a wreck at Talladega Superspeedway.

"I've struggled with my balance over the last four or five days, and I definitely wouldn't have been able to drive a race car (at New

Hampshire)," Earnhardt said earlier during his "The Dale Jr. Download" podcast. "So making the right decision (not to race) was out of the question. I made the decision I had to make. ... It's just going to take a lot of patience. I put my health and quality of life as a top priority, and I'll always do that. I'm going to take this slow and strictly follow the advice of my doctors."

Earnhardt visited the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Sports Medicine Concussion Program Tuesday for further evaluation.

"I miss everybody. I really appreciate all the support that I've gotten," Earnhardt said on the podcast. "It's really unnecessary, but it really does make me feel good."

"I have to be honest. To hear everybody wishing me well really, really does my heart good. This kind of thing can beat you down and get you sad, but I've got a lot of good people around me, a lot of people supporting me. I hope we can get back at the track soon."

## SLWS

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um beginning at 5 p.m. Thursday, with an if-necessary game set for 7:30 p.m.

Five U.S. regionals and the Canadian championships get under way this week. U.S. West play began Tuesday, Canada on Wednesday, the U.S. East