

Community donates for Lions Club fireworks show



American Custom Lifts, A local company with worldwide distribution makes a generous donation to the community Fireworks show. Pictured left to right are Jason Tharp (owner), Shannon Tharp, Kristi Staheli, Stefanie Freund, Billy Freund, Malia Davies and BK Armstrong. The kids in the picture are Karson Freund, and Makynna Freund. American Custom Lifts invites the whole Ridgecrest community to the Fairgrounds on the 4th to enjoy the Fireworks, gates open at 6 pm.



Yusef Odeh and Toby Kent local owners of "Bev-Ridge" say you too can make a donation to the Ridgecrest Lions for the community 4th of July Fireworks Show. Help make it another great show, and remember why we celebrate Independence Day. Pictured left to right are Dulce Marquez, Yusef Odeh, Toby Kent, Laila Khadeegi, and Marisela Hvereque.

Gary Charlon State Farm donates to the Ridgecrest Lions Club in support of the 4th of July community show. The "FREE" to the community, fireworks show is made possible through the generosity of businesses like State Farm.



Mission Bank is proud to support this community and appreciates the Ridgecrest Lions Club for their service to our community and for putting the 4th of July fireworks show together.

DESERT VALLEYS

Continued from A1

specials for members. "With interest rates finally on the rise, we have a special offer this month only" said Bruen. Over the past ten years, Desert Valleys has contributed more than \$200,000 to local community organizations in addition to facilitate numerous community programs through our Community Resource Center. "We are proud to be a part of this community and invite everyone to come in and celebrate with us dur-

ing the month." said Bruen. Membership in Desert Valleys requires only a \$5.00 opening deposit and is open to anyone who works or lives in Ridgecrest. Desert Valleys is a not-for-profit financial cooperative committed to serving the Ridgecrest and Trona communities. For more information about Desert Valleys events, visit www.desertvalleys.org, Follow us on Facebook, or email us at info@desertvalleys.org.

FIREWORKS

Continued from A1

cues or personal fireworks. Be prepared to have coolers checked at the entry gate. According to Ridgecrest Lions Club's Steven Morgan, this year marks the 23rd year that Lions has sponsored the event. Fundraising for the event takes place throughout the year. The Lions currently have donation boxes at various locations around town, including at the counters of McDonalds and Wiener-schnitzel.

In addition, various organizations have contributed to the event. Organizations and businesses including Warren's Automotive, American Custom Lifts BevRidge, Gary Charlon State Farm Insurance, Mission Bank, Coldwell Banker, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, Searles Valley Minerals, IWV Optimists, McDonald's and the American Legion Riders have all made contributions. Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union is wrapping up its participation in the annual Superstars Challenge donation drive. According to Desert Valleys

CEO Eric Bruen, credit union members donated more than \$2,200 this year. Desert Valleys will provide an additional \$1,000 match. "We've run the Super Stars program for the last five or six years," Bruen said. "Members have been making contributions over this last month to go toward the fireworks show. We believe in the spirit of the Fourth of July and what it means for the community of and I'm proud of my staff for raising funds and I give them kudos." The Lions annual bingo fundraising event, held in

May, raised approximately \$4,000, which was \$6,000 short of the \$10,000 goal. This year's show costs approximately \$22,000, plus the cost of a fire marshal and other fees, for a total of \$25,000. In a June news release, Lions Club Treasurer and fireworks coordinator Michael Lewis provided a simple example. "If everyone in Ridgecrest donated \$0.75, we as a community would be able to have a Fireworks show every year without funding issues!" according to Lewis in the press release.

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Business Management Excellence Award winners, from left, Sharon Belill, Jeri Walters and William Diaduk, are recognized by Joan Johnson, NAWCWD executive director, and Rear Adm. Brian Corey, commander, during the 2017 Honorary Awards on June 20 at China Lake.



Captain Kenneth A. Walden Memorial Award winners, Larry Collins, left, and Billy Willis, celebrate with Joan Johnson, NAWCWD executive director, and Rear Adm. Brian Corey, commander, during the 2017 Honorary Awards on June 20 at China Lake.



Elizabeth Leung, Amber Richards and Merrie Giles receive Gwendolyn Elliot Hunt Memorial Awards from Joan Johnson, NAWCWD executive director, and Rear Adm. Brian Corey, commander, during the 2017 Honorary Awards on June 20 at China Lake.



Ryan Hunter is joined by Joan Johnson, NAWCWD executive director, and Rear Adm. Brian Corey, commander, after receiving the Dr. Charles C. Lauritsen Memorial Award during the 2017 Honorary Awards on June 20 at China Lake.



Dr. L.T.E. Thompson Memorial Award winners Duane Brown, left, and Martin Minthorn celebrate with Joan Johnson, NAWCWD executive director, and Rear Adm. Brian Corey, commander, during the 2017 Honorary Awards on June 20 at China Lake.



Joan Johnson, NAWCWD executive director, and Rear Adm. Brian Corey, commander, celebrate with the Logistics Excellence Award winners during the 2017 Honorary Awards on June 20 at China Lake.

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Arzell Hale, representing Searles Valley Minerals makes a Platinum Level \$1000 donation supporting the Lions Community July 4th Fireworks display. Searles Valley Minerals has been in business for 100 years, providing important ingredients for products like window glass and detergents.



Tina Warren and Rusty Warren of Warren's Automotive make a Gold Level \$500 donation supporting the Lions Community July 4th Fireworks display. "Fireworks displays on such a symbolic day as 4th of July is something every community should have. It is our pleasure to support that."



Director of Community Outreach Tera Moorehead and Ridgecrest Regional Hospital CEO James Suver make a Platinum Level \$1,000 donation on behalf of RRH supporting the Lions Community July 4th Fireworks display. "We are delighted to sponsor the fireworks show and would like to thank the Lions Club for putting on a great show every year."



Supervisor Alex Espindola and Ridgecrest Lion Sharelle are pictured. McDonald's made a Silver Level \$250 donation supporting the Lions Community July 4th Fireworks display. "Have a safe and happy 4th of July everyone!"

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QUESTIONS? Contact Managing Editor Jack Barnwell at 375-4481 or at jbarnewell@ridgecrestca.com

Optimists donate to Lions Club fireworks show

Pictured are Optimist Member Natalie, Lion Sharelle, Optimist Member Toni. IWV Optimist club would like to wish everyone: "Happy 4th!" IWV Optimist Club make a Silver Level \$250 donation supporting the Lions Community July 4th Fireworks display.



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Sam Mellinger: Chiefs owner Clark Hunt showing a ruthless side his silence often hides

BY SAM MELLINGER
Kansas City Star

The image of Clark Hunt that's easiest to the mind is an ultra-conservative, methodical and smart man trying to move through the impossible legacy and expectations that come with being his father's son.

There is truth in all of that, but it's best seen through a specific lens, an angle that's becoming more important as he continues to shape the Chiefs entering his 11th full season in charge of the family business.

Because Hunt is all of those things: conservative, deliberate, intelligent.

But he also carries other characteristics, equally as important to how he runs the team. These are traits he prefers to keep out of the public's view: cold, calculated, his business decisions completely unencumbered by the burden of personal feelings.

Maybe some of this is easier to see now, after Hunt fired general manager John Dorsey in a move that shocked the football world and is seen as unprecedented in its timing and context.

He does not speak publicly often. When he does, he's



Kansas City Chiefs chairman and CEO Clark Hunt, right, talks with head coach Andy Reid before a game against the St. Louis Rams on October 26, 2014, at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo.

meticulous in both what he talks about and how he talks about it. He does not let people in easily. He has a virtual allergy to attention.

His father was an everyman, with a touch of showman. Clark is relentlessly serious, and prefers running Kansas City's most famous

institution from the background.

He is short, usually quiet, and always tailored and austere in style. That's part of

why it's easy, sometimes, to take him as passive. Indecisive. He keeps his permanent home in Dallas, a fact many have taken to label him as an

absentee owner. And to be fair, there was a time he was

SEE HUNT, B7

Katie Ledecky races to 3rd individual title at US nationals

BY MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Katie Ledecky and Lilly King spent Friday night cleaning up in Indianapolis.

Now the two American stars can start planning their next major project — sweeping the world championships.

On a night Kevin Cordes reclaimed his national record in the men's 100-meter breaststroke and 32-year-old Matt Grevers regained a spot on the U.S. team, the two 20-year-old women each closed out their U.S. National Championships with a third victory and even bigger plans next month in Budapest, Hungary.

"This is faster than I was

last summer and I was elated then," King said after winning the 100 breaststroke in a championship record of 1 minute, 4.95 seconds. "I think it sets me up pretty well."

King won all three American breaststroke titles in Indianapolis.

Next up: The daunting prospect of three possible head-to-head matchups with Russian rival Yulia Efimova, who King dubbed a drug cheat at last summer's Olympics. Efimova and King currently are ranked one-two in the world in each event, with Efimova holding the best times at the 100 and 200 distances. King is seeded No. 1 in the 50.

King just held off the hard-charging Katie Meili,

who went 1:05.51 on Friday.

But Ledecky will have the more grueling challenge in Budapest.

Two years after becoming the first swimmer in history to win the 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 freestyle at worlds, the Stanford star could replicate the feat.

After winning the 800 and 200 free earlier this week, Ledecky came back from a rare day off and broke her own U.S. Open record in the 400 with a 3:58.44. For the third time this week, Leah Smith wound up a distant second to Ledecky with a time of 4:03.77.

The winners of each event automatically qualify for the U.S. Runner-ups are likely to make the team but must wait for the selection process

to end.

Ledecky's earlier win in the 800 means she can skip Saturday's 1,500 and still compete in the event at worlds.

"The 3:58 is my third-best ever and it took me some time to get from 3:58 back to 3:58," she said. "I'm just coming off the first year after the Olympics and have been building into the quad, so I'm happy to see what I can do."

While the success of Ledecky and King continued to be the biggest splash at nationals, Cordes and Grevers produced two of the most emotional stories all week.

Ten months after Cordes saw Cody Miller take Olympic gold with an Amer-

ican record of 58.87, Miller couldn't do anything to prevent Cordes from retaking it in Indy.

Cordes touched in 58.74 while Miller, in the lane next to Cordes, settled for second in 59.11.

"It was in the back of my mind," Cordes said after claiming his third national title in four days. "But, really, I'm just happy to get a chance to swim in Budapest."

Nobody was happier than Grevers.

After failing to make the Olympic team last year, losing his records to Ryan Murphy, questioning whether he would still be competitive internationally and facing retirement if he didn't qualify Friday, Grevers broke through with a performance

that had the entire pool deck cheering him.

He beat Murphy with a time of 52.71 to keep his career going. Murphy was second in 52.302.

"I guess I'm like the Rudy of swimming right now," Grevers said. "I don't think I'm the underdog but I think everyone saw the pain I was in last year and now they're rooting for that guy."

Olympic gold medalist Kathleen Baker broke Missy Franklin's 4-year-old championship record to win the women's 100 back. Olivia Smoliga was second in 59.17.

And Zane Grothe took the men's 400 free title in 3:44.43. Clark Smith was second in 3:45.91.

The nationals conclude Saturday.

After doping age, Tour start in Germany is a 'Grand Return'

BY ANDREW DAMPF
Associated Press

DUESSELDORF, Germany — The Tour de France calls its start the "Grand Depart." This year it feels more like the "Grand Return."

Six years after German TV stopped broadcasting cycling's showpiece event because of a series of doping scandals and three decades after it last rolled off in the country, the Tour opens this weekend with two stages in Duesseldorf.

The race starts Saturday with a mostly flat 14-kilometer (8.7-mile) individ-

ual time trial in Duesseldorf that seems tailor made for four-time world champion Tony Martin to grab the yellow jersey in front of his home fans.

Stage 2 on Sunday goes from Duesseldorf to Liege, Belgium.

The last time the three-week race started from Germany was in 1987, when the Grand Depart took place in West Berlin — when the city was still divided.

A decade later, German cycling reached its high point when Jan Ullrich became the first and still only German rider to win the

Tour.

Ullrich also finished runner-up five times in the Tour, three times behind Lance Armstrong, who was eventually stripped of his seven titles for doping.

Ullrich also fell into disgrace and was suspended in 2006 in the fallout from the Operation Puerto blood-doping scandal in Spain. He retired a year later, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport then banned him for two years in 2012 for involvement in the doping program of Spanish doctor Eufemiano Fuentes.

Ullrich did not contest the ruling by the sports

court and remains unwelcome in cycling circles. He was not invited to Duesseldorf by Tour organizers.

While Ullrich's Tour victory set off a golden age of German cycling, the sport quickly disintegrated in the country following doping scandals involving prominent riders like Patrick Sinkewitz and Stefan Schumacher. Even Erik Zabel, the popular rider who still holds the record of six green jerseys in the Tour's points classification, admitted to doping after he retired.

These days, a new generation of German riders led

by Martin, sprinters Andre Greipel and Marcel Kittel — who have won 11 and nine Tour stages, respectively — plus classics specialist John Degenkolb, have drawn local fans back to cycling.

German TV station ARD began broadcasting the Tour again in 2015 and the Tour of Germany is slated to return next year after it, too, was canceled in 2009.

"A lot of people are looking forward to have the Tour de France back in Germany, and we want to give fans reasons to be proud of us," said Kittel, who is aiming to win Stage 2. "Having

the Grand Depart here is an important step for the German community."

Martin, meanwhile, should thrive on the urban time trial course taking the riders down the banks of the Rhine river. The course likely isn't long enough for overall Tour favorites Chris Froome and Richie Porte to distance themselves too much from their rivals, although they could contend for the stage win.

Another rider to look out for in the time trial is Rohan Dennis, the Australian with BMC who won the opening leg in 2015.

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Heir apparent to Dungey yet to materialize in motocross

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP Sports Writer

Ryan Vilopoto's surprise retirement in 2015 left motocross without one of its biggest stars. Ryan Dungey's equally surprising retirement earlier this year drained even more of the circuit's star power.

But, as is the case in all sports, when a star athlete steps out of the spotlight, an opportunity arises for someone else to take their place.

As the motocross outdoor season reaches its midpoint this weekend in Michigan, no clear-cut favorite has emerged.

"It's kind of like Game of Thrones; we're looking for someone new to take over, but there's only four or five guys who have a legitimate shot, I believe, to be that person," said Davey Coombs, president of MX Sports, which operates Lucas Oil Pro Motocross Championships. "We're waiting to see who that will be."

Coombs has been involved in motocross for

pretty much all of his life, so we asked him to help break down who could end up being the sport's next star.

ELI TOMAC

Age: 24
Hometown: Cortez, Colorado

Team: Monster Energy Kawasaki

The lowdown: Tomac was expected to be the rider to move into the spotlight after finishing second to Dungey in a close Supercross battle earlier this year and winning at Hangtown to start the outdoor season. He didn't build upon it, though, missing the podium in three straight races before winning at Tennessee last week. "They seemed to have dialed in during Supercross, but outdoors he has regressed a little," Coombs said. "He's not riding with the consistency or the aggressiveness that he had at the end of Supercross. Even so, he is maybe everyone's favorite pick to be the next guy."

KEN ROCZEN

Age: 23
Hometown: Apolda, Germany

Team: Honda HRC

The lowdown: Roczen made a name for himself quickly after moving from Germany, winning the outdoor title as a rookie in 2014 and another last year. But the German's future is in doubt after a horrific crash during the third Supercross race of 2017 that left him with a compound fracture, a dislocated wrist and dislocated elbow. Roczen has had more than 10 operations already and it's unclear when or if he might be able to return. "He was the long-term favorite early in the season, but had that absolutely horrific crash and his whole future is more or less in the air," Coombs said. "Hopefully he gets back."

BLAKE BAGGETT

Age: 25
Hometown: Grand Terrace, California

Team: Team RMATVMC

The lowdown: Baggett appeared to be one of the rising stars after winning the 250cc outdoor title in 2012, but suffered through a string of injuries and had a rough transition to 450s, costing him a spot on a factory team. He made the turn, so to speak, at the third race of the season in Colorado, running down Tomac in his home state for his first victory. Baggett is the points leader heading into this weekend's race, four ahead of Tomac. "They say once you find your way to the winner's circle, it's so much easier the second time," Coombs said. "He's proven that. That one win seemed to change everything for him and his team."

MARVIN MUSQUIN

Age: 27
Hometown: La Reole, France

Team: Red Bull KTM

The lowdown: The heir apparent to Dungey at KTM was expected to be biggest challenger to Tomac during the outdoor season.

Musquin got the season off to a strong start, finishing second his first race and winning at Glen Helen after that. A torn meniscus has since slowed him, taking away some of his aggressiveness and leaving him fourth in the standings. "If he doesn't get it turned around soon, he's going to lose his chance to win his first motocross title in America," Coombs said.

JASON ANDERSON

Age: 24
Hometown: Edgewood, New Mexico

Team: Rockstar Energy Husqvarna

The lowdown: Anderson nearly quit the sport before he reached the highest level, but has been on a steady climb since, getting better while building confidence with each season. The recent acquisition by KTM of Husqvarna has infused the team with more money and the bike has been set up specifically for Anderson. "He found the right team with Rockstar Husqvarna

and is showing the potential when he turned pro back in 2011," Coombs said. "He's sort of the alpha dog of the team and the team is pushing him to be the next king."

AARON PLESSINGER

Age: 20
Hometown: Hamilton, Ohio

Team: Yamalube/Star Racing Yamaha

The lowdown: A big rider at 6-foot-2, he mostly rode 450s as an amateur before joining the 250 class of professional racing. Plessinger is fourth in the 250 standings this season, but won his first race at Tennessee and should be set up well when he makes the jump to 450s next year. "Given his height and the way that he rides, I believe he will be an immediate contender on a 450," Coombs said. "He's not even winning the 250 championship right now, but he is the guy we look at as most likely to succeed on a 450."

IOC VP: Tokyo 2020 will attract youth, offer gender equality

BY JIM ARMSTRONG
AP Sports Writer

TOKYO — IOC Vice President John Coates says the addition of new sports at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics will attract youth and create gender equality without driving up costs.

In an effort to give the games a more youthful and urban appeal, the IOC has added 3-on-3 basketball and BMX Freestyle cycling to the Tokyo program for a net increase of 15 gold

medals in a 321-event program.

"Tokyo 2020 will deliver a unique experience to athletes and fans of all ages," Coates said on Friday after wrapping up a three-day evaluation for Tokyo's preparations. The Australian heads the IOC's coordination commission for the 2020 games.

There will be eight teams in each of the men's and women's tournaments in the 3-on-3 half-court format which was introduced

at the 2010 Youth Olympics in Singapore.

"We recently added 15 events to the Olympic program," Coates said. "They are events delivering greater gender equality and more of an urban and youth focus."

The overall athlete quota for 28 core sports will be 10,616 athletes in Tokyo.

The IOC expects women to account for 48.8 percent of the athletes in Tokyo. A total of 285 athlete places were cut from

the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games with track and field losing 105 spots.

"We've added 15 events but have reduced the number of participants by 285 athletes and there will be no new venues required for these events," Coates said.

Last August, the IOC decided to include sports climbing, skateboarding, surfing, baseball and softball, and karate in the Tokyo program.

During his visit, Coates visited the Olympic Vil-

lage, the Aquatics Center and the National Stadium.

"The new National Stadium is well and truly coming out of the ground, is on budget and will meet the completion time and date of November 2019 which is so important for us," Coates said.

The IOC and Tokyo organizers are eager to use the games as a symbol of recovery from the 2011 disaster in Japan's northeastern region. On Friday, Coates con-

firmed that the first baseball and softball games involving Japan will be played at Fukushima, where entire communities were displaced after meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, 240 kilometers (150 miles) north of Tokyo, following an earthquake.

After the opening games for the host nation, the remainder of the baseball and softball tournaments will be played at Yokohama Stadium near Tokyo.

HUNT

Continued from B2

less in touch.

But people who have worked for, with and around Hunt have described him consistently and similarly over the years. He listens more than he talks, doesn't waste words, and when it's his turn it's usually worth listening to.

He is cautious, they say, with one former employee saying it reminded him of the first rule of medicine: first, do no harm. But he doesn't forget, and doesn't let much slip. He may be a tortoise getting to a decision, but once he's there, he won't waste a second.

We've seen this over and over, in action if not words. When Hunt took over after his father's death in December 2006, he waited until two failed seasons with a total of just six wins before releasing GM/president Carl Peterson and head coach

Herm Edwards.

He should've known it wasn't going to work with Scott Pioli after 2011, but waited until after the epically disastrous 2012 season to take major action. He fired coach Romeo Crennel immediately after the season, then fired Pioli after hiring Andy Reid as coach.

Like any strategy, there are benefits and drawbacks. One benefit is more time to be certain. Hunt's deliberate nature means he may come to a conclusion slower than others, but he is less likely to be wrong. He has shown himself willing to sacrifice short-term pain for long-term certainty.

Looking through that lens, the Dorsey firing actually fits Hunt's nature and history in some ways.

Because if he was going to make this move, it would've been best done immediately after the season. That would've allowed him to promote Chris Ballard before the Colts hired him away, maintaining stability and

consistency through the draft.

You can even stretch your mind a little to see Hunt allowing Dorsey to run the draft, even if he wasn't sure the GM would be around long-term. Teams sometimes don't want to disrupt draft preparation. Executives being fired immediately after a draft is not uncommon, and Dorsey proved himself capable of running a good draft.

But waiting until seven weeks after the draft means Hunt had been deliberating about Dorsey's future the entire time, not sharing the general outside assumption that contract negotiations were a mere formality.

From the outside, a convenient assumption is that Reid won a power struggle. But reporting by the excellent Terez Paylor of the Kansas City Star has not found that. Hunt has shown himself to be occasionally callous and always business-first. It's logical to think he might not have fired Dorsey if he believed Reid would

have a major problem with it, but it's completely within the bounds of Hunt's style to fire Dorsey on his own without much care about how it would be taken publicly.

Hunt prefers the background while Reid is a famous football coach who speaks publicly more often than anyone else in the organization. So it can be easy to forget, but Hunt is in charge and has long proven himself capable of merciless decisions that go against public sentiment.

The most famous of these may have been ending Denny Thum's 36 years with the Chiefs. Thum started as a staff accountant, and worked his way up to club president. He was widely seen as Lamar Hunt's right hand man, and the biggest assignment of his life may have been the renovations and opening of "new Arrowhead" in 2010.

The opening, by all accounts, was spectacular. The next morning, with human resources in the room, Hunt

handed Thum a quote to be used in a press release about his firing later that day. Thum sued Hunt for age discrimination, and the case settled out of court.

At least until or unless Hunt talks about what happened with Dorsey's firing, any explanations are admittedly reverse engineered. Because nobody anticipated this.

But if we view Hunt by his actions rather than his words or the easy image of him, the move isn't out of character. He's long proven himself unaffected by nostalgia, most obviously by moving his father's franchise away from long-time executives Peterson and Thum.

He is also hyper-sensitive about his franchise being known as "doing things the right way." He is proud and protective of the Chiefs' status as a so-called legacy franchise, and was said to be furious about how the team was seen, and in many cases run, leading up to Pioli's firing.

The surprising thing, even now, is that Dorsey would've been doing something Hunt perceived as against the franchise's best interests. But that did happen, or else we wouldn't be talking about a firing. Maybe that came through a loose management style, a specific demand in contract negotiations, a perpetually tight salary cap or something else. But, given something he took as provocation, it is not surprising that Hunt would've done this — taking short-term pain in exchange for what he sees as a better future.

We can be shocked at certain parts of this, particularly the timing. But Hunt has spent more than a decade showing us who he is through his actions.

This specific move may have involved the extremes of his nature, but it also may end up remembered as the single most instructive decision to better understand a quiet, deliberate and ruthless man.

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QUESTIONS? Contact Sports Editor Christopher Livingston at 375-4481 x111 or at clivingston@ridgecrestca.com

Girardi blames lack of padding for rookie's injury

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Dustin Fowler's major league debut was over before he even stepped into the batter's box, and New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi had harsh words for Guaranteed Rate Field.

The 22-year-old Fowler ruptured the patellar tendon in his right knee during the first inning of the Yankees' 4-3 loss to the Chicago White Sox on Thursday night, slamming into the short sidewall near the corner trying to catch Jose Abreu's one-out foul ball. Fowler had surgery at Rush University Medical Center.

Girardi said the injury was avoidable.

"There's an electrical box," Girardi said. "And to me, that's a problem. And I'm not blaming the White

Sox, but it's something that needs to be inspected. It should have been padded or not put there or put lower because if the kid doesn't hit the electrical box, he might still be hurt, but my guess is he doesn't rupture his patellar tendon."

Fowler was on a full run and wasn't able to catch up with the ball, which bounced in foul territory. Fowler tumbled into the first row of seats, then tried to stand up on the field. Girardi said more needs to be done in stadiums to prevent players from flipping over low walls.

"I think it's something baseball needs to address," he said. "Maybe you put up Plexiglass, so they can't flip over and people can look through it. They look through it in hockey."

Fowler hopped but his

right leg buckled twice before he sat down on the warning track and waited for help. He was driven off in a cart, and Girardi said Fowler will miss the rest of the season. The injury usually requires at least six months of rehabilitation.

"He has to go through a long grueling rehab, and it just doesn't seem fair that's what happened," Girardi said. "I was in tears, actually, because I know what it takes to get here and how hard he's worked and what's supposed to be a really exciting day for him turns into a really bad day."

Fowler was brought up earlier in the day from Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

"It just makes you sick," Yankees teammate Aaron Judge said.

Fowler was set to lead off the second inning for his

first big league plate appearance.

"It's one of the worst things I've seen on a baseball field," New York left fielder Brett Gardner said. "I just can't imagine a worse scenario for him."

"It's heartbreaking. He's a good kid and a really, really good player with a bright future."

Fowler's injury followed a 2-hour, 50-minute rain delay. Fowler was replaced by Rob Refsnyder.

Fowler was called up after the Yankees put first baseman Tyler Austin on the disabled list with a hamstring injury. Fowler hit .293 with 13 homers at 43 RBIs at Scranton and was selected to play in the International League All-Star Game.

With Fowler out, the Yankees may once again have to dip into the minor

league system for help.

Miguel Andujar, another 22-year-old, made his big league debut Wednesday and had three hits and four RBIs as the designated hitter in a 12-3 win. Andujar was optioned Thursday to Scranton so he can play third base regularly, according to Girardi.

"He had a great day and it's hard to send him down," Girardi said. "We look at him as an everyday third baseman in the future."

Austin, brought up Saturday to replace Chris Carter, was put on the 10-day disabled list with what Girardi called a high grade right hamstring strain.

"He's going to be out awhile," Girardi said.

Carter, designated for assignment and assigned outright Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, was brought back to the big league roster

and listed as a bench player. The first baseman hit 41 homers last season for Milwaukee but just eight in 57 games with New York while batting .204 with 70 strikeouts.

CC Sabathia threw a bullpen session and said he is ready to be activated. Girardi wants to wait a couple of days to see how the 6-foot-6 left-hander feels before projecting his return to the rotation.

New York also transferred Greg Bird to the 60-day disabled list and designated outfielder Mason Williams for assignment. Bird went on the DL on May 2.

The Yankees have lost 12 of their last 16 games and fallen a game behind first place Boston in the AL East.

FANTASY PLAYS: Can Corey Kluber keep up his Cy Young pace?

BY JAKE CIELY

Fantasy Sports Network via Associated Press

Corey Kluber is looking like a Cy Young favorite, while Michael Taylor is overlooked in Washington. Meanwhile, it might be time to bail on Taijuan Walker, and Jonathan Villar returned with a bang but still has lingering concerns.

CHEERS

Corey Kluber, CLE - To say Kluber has been great would be an understatement. Since his return (six starts), Kluber has just six earned runs with 64 strikeouts in 43 innings, including 10-plus strikeouts in all but one start. Not surprisingly, owners have started asking if they should sell high on Kluber because "it can't get better than this, right?" Not so fast. Kluber now has a 3.02 ERA for the season, which is just slightly under his 3.14 ERA from last year. Kluber's expected fielding independent pitching (xFIP) is actually 2.69, and he had a 2.44 ERA in 2014, so it can get better. Even if this is peak Kluber and he settles in to a 3.00 ERA and around 10.0 strikeouts per nine innings instead of his current 11.8 mark, you can't sell high on Kluber. This year is not like most. Having an ace pitcher like Kluber, Clayton Kershaw, Max Scherzer or Chris Sale gives you a distinct advantage over your competition. Madison Bumgarner should return soon, but Noah Syndergaard will still miss more time and top-end pitchers such as Jake Arrieta and Jon Lester are having down years. Dallas Keuchel is still the fourth-highest rated pitcher, and he's been on the DL for weeks. Sometimes, you have to understand the edge you have with stars, and a pitcher like Kluber means your No. 1 is better than most of the league. Don't sell high.

Michael Taylor, WSH - It's not clear what it will take for fantasy owners to appreciate Taylor. Taylor is in the top 20 in runs and HRs, top 30 in RBIs and top 6 in SBs with a .293 average in the month of June. In other words, Taylor has been a top 15 overall hitter for the month. Yet, if you offer him in a trade, owners will balk at his value being anything more than an fifth outfielder. That's where your knowledge comes into play. Go after the Taylor owner and try to grab him in a deal. You might find that the owner is wise to Taylor's value, but many owners are still reluctant to believe. It's possible that Taylor's inconsistent playing time over the past two seasons clouds people's judgment, but Taylor is a true 20/30 threat for HRs/SBs and is at least a third outfielder for fantasy teams this year. Maybe Taylor can even soften some of the blow from Trea Turner's loss.

TEARS

Taijuan Walker, ARI - Walker's possible breakout season is starting to look less likely by the start. Since May 16, Walker has a 3.9 strikeout minus walk percentage, which is the

11th-lowest mark among starters. While Walker's 3.50 ERA looks solid, he's given up nine runs (seven earned) in his last three starts. Walker's xFIP is nearly a full run higher at 4.43.

Looking deeper, he is allowing one-third of the number of home runs he did last year (per nine innings). You might think that's good, but it's actually concerning, as Walker is allowing the highest hard hit ball percentage of his career and has regularly allowed well over a home run per nine innings pitched.

Additionally, the Diamondbacks nixed the plans to add a humidifier this year. Pitching in Arizona makes regression more likely given its hitter-friendly nature, and Walker is walking more batters than ever while striking out fewer over the last few weeks. There are signs here telling us it would be a good time

to sell high on Walker.

FEARS

Jonathan Villar, MIL - Villar returned from the DL to find himself on the bench in his first game back. He more than made up for that with two home runs against the Reds, but should you be encouraged or still have concerns? Villar entered the game with a .216 average while on pace for 15 HRs, 71 runs, 66 RBIs and 36 SBs. Other than that painful aver-

age, the drop in runs and especially stolen bases made Villar one of this year's biggest disappointments. The problem is that Villar is striking out over 30 percent of the time, a career worst. On top of that, Eric Sogard has been playing great, Orlando Arcia is doing well too and Hernan Perez is the Brewers everyday man, now pushed to the infield more with Ryan Braun back.

If Villar doesn't keep hitting, there are numerous

options for the Brewers. If you own Villar, look to sell high quickly. If you can get high-end shortstop value for him, move on and eliminate the risk, but don't just toss Villar away for pennies.

STREAMING PITCHERS

You should know this by now, but stream your pitchers against the Padres. They continue to lead the league in SOBB (strikeout percentage minus base on balls percentage), making

Trevor Bauer, Josh Tomlin, Nick Pivetta and Aaron Nola all strong starts.

The Rangers offense is still struggling to hit consistently and are just behind the Padres in SOBB. Consider Rick Porcello a better play than he has been in most starts to date.

The Athletics are a strong matchup play, which makes Carlos Rodon, Ariel Miranda and Felix Hernandez quality options.



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