

GamePlan

TODAY'S
BEST
BETS

Watch: Colorado at Dodgers
The Dodgers, with Hideo Nomo pitching, face the Colorado Rockies in the second game of a four-game series at Dodger Stadium. FSN2 at 7:10 p.m.



Go: Washington at Sparks
Mwadi Mabika, left, will try to help the injury-riddled Sparks end the Washington Mystics' three-game winning streak. Staples Center at 7 p.m.

TALK BACK



Armstrong

'Lance Armstrong fell during the Tour de France, and his competition actually stopped and waited for him. Gentlemen, my hat's off to you and your countries.'

JEFF WOLTKAMP
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO



Talk to us

We want your comments on sports personalities, games and news. Please send your thoughts to sports@ocregister.com or fax to (714) 796-6765. Please keep comments to 25 words.

THE LINE

Major League Baseball	Favorite	Line	Underdog	Line
American League	Angels	-175	at T.Bay	+165
	at New York	-125	Toronto	+115
	at Baltimore	-130	Texas	+120
	at Boston	-300	Detroit	+250
	at Chicago	-180	Cleveland	+170
	Oakland	-165	at K. City	+155
	Seattle	-150	at Minn.	+140
National League	at Dodgers	-185	Colorado	+175
	at Atlanta	-230	Chicago	+210
	Houston	-160	at Pitts.	+150
	at Florida	-130	Montreal	+120
	at Cinc.	-130	Milw.	+120
	St. Louis	-115	at S.D.	+105
	Arizona	-150	at San Fran	+140
	at Phila.	-250	New York	+220

Example: Bet \$185 on the favorite to win \$100 or bet \$100 on the underdog to win \$175.

SPARKS TONIGHT

SPARKS (16-5) vs. WASHINGTON MYSTICS (5-14)
Tipoff: 7 p.m.
Site: Staples Center
Outlook: The injuries and the losses are continuing to mount for the Sparks. Sparks coach Michael Cooper said that center Lisa Leslie (bruised knee) will not play tonight and that the availability of guard Tamecka Dixon (strained knee) will be a game-time decision. In addition, forward DeLisha Milton sat out practice on Monday to avoid any damage to a lightly sprained ankle. The last time the Sparks lost five games before July 25 was during the 1999 season, the first season the team reached the playoffs. The Mystics are on a three-game winning streak, led by WNBA Player of the Week Cha-mique Holdscrow, who is averaging 19.8 points and 11.6 rebounds a game.
TV/Radio: Oxygen; KPLS/830
EUGENE W. FIELDS/The Register

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TOP OF THE 2ND



PHOTOS: MARVI LACAR, THE REGISTER

WRIGHT STUFF: Rob Rohm, left, jokes around with ex-major-league pitcher Clyde Wright.

He makes pitch for swing at Ryan

ANAHEIM • This is a love story about one man, a candy bar and major-league baseball's strikeout king.

Rob Rohm, 32, of Orange, was barely 10 when he ran beside his father to Anaheim Stadium to see Nolan Ryan throw the heat for the Angels of the 1970s.



MARCIA C. SMITH
THE REGISTER

Nolan Ryan. The Ryan Express. The Hall of Famer. The Texan behind the record 5,714 strikeouts, the seven no-hitters, the 12 one-hitters, the whiffs of 1,176 players and the unrelenting obsession of one man.

Rob Rohm. Bats right. Throws right. Drives a maroon minivan. Husband of Lucy. Father of Raquel, 7, and Christian, 4. A 6-foot-2,

side "Rob. R., Orange, CA," and a scene of a half-naked Rohm poking his head out of a shower. (Think of Janet Leigh in "Psycho," only with chest hair.)

Now, Rohm is campaigning around California, drumming up votes. Four cars, including one painter's Toyota pickups, have "Vote for Rob R." signs on their back windows. Rohm is handing out fliers. His grandmothers distributed fliers this past weekend — at a wake.

"Anything," he said. As of Monday night, Rohm was in third place, with 17 percent of the votes. Manazer was 10th.

Winners receive round-trip plane tickets and hotel accommodations for three days and two nights for two in Round Rock, Texas, home of the Double-A Houston Astros-affiliate Express and a piece of the Chisholm Trail.



PUMPED UP: Rohm, left, and son Christian, 4, stand with Wright, owner of Clyde Wright Pitching School in Anaheim.

Also, they get two tickets to the Aug. 16 Express game, a photo with Ryan, \$250 spending money and a Conestoga wagon full of Baby Ruth candy bars.

But the big prize will be stepping in the batter's box and digging his white, 7-year-old cleats into the dirt at Dell Diamond to face Ryan. Rohm hopes he won't become a chiropractor's dream.

"He still can throw in the 80s," said Rohm, who spent Monday at Home Run Park taking cuts at 80-mph fastballs from the pitching machine. "I want to be ready."

In 2002, the first year of the Baby Ruth promotion, Ryan made quick work of the 10 finalists and a few media sacrificial lambs who qualified to get the all-medical-expenses paid trip to Ryan.

Only comedian Tom Arnold of the "Best Damn Sports Show Period" managed more than a foul tip, slamming a line drive into right field.

Rohm, a former Little League first baseman, hasn't hit a live-pitched baseball since the onset of puberty. He went home with a sore back after swinging at 100 pitches Friday.

On Monday, Rohm was taking BP again, pulling on batting gloves (from playing rec-league softball), and he got Clyde Wright, the former Angels pitcher and owner of the Clyde Wright Pitching School in Anaheim, to fire up the machine.

Swat! Single to left. Swat! Grounder to right. Swat! A home run.

Anticipating the long-awaited meeting of boy and baseball hero, Rohm said, "I just want to make contact."

With Ryan — and the baseball.

ON THE AIR TODAY

Sport	Time	Event (D-delay; T-tape)	TV	Radio
Baseball	9:15 a.m.	Angels at Tampa Bay		KSPN/710 KKWU/1220
	11 a.m.	Cleveland at White Sox	WGN	
	4:30 p.m.	Cubs at Atlanta	TBS WGN	
	7:05 p.m.	St. Louis at San Diego		KOGO/600
	7:10 p.m.	Colorado at Dodgers	FSN2	KFWB/980 KKWV/1330
Boxing	7 p.m.	Tuesday Night Fights	ESPN2	
Lacrosse	Noon	Bridgeport at Baltimore (T)	ESPN2	
Motor sports	5 a.m.	NASCAR Elite Touring Series: Modified (T)	FSN2	
	Noon	FIM Motocross Series (T)	Speed	
	1 p.m.	FIM Bulgarian Grand Prix (T)	Speed	
	6:15 p.m.	AMA Grand National Series (T)	Speed	
	7:20 p.m.	AMA Formula Xtreme Series (T)	Speed	
Pro basketball	7 p.m.	WNBA: Washington at Sparks	Oxy	KPLS/830
Soccer	7 p.m.	Peace Cup Final (D)	KDOC	
Swimming	10:30 a.m.	World Championships (T)	ESPN	
Volleyball	1 p.m.	AVP Series (T)	FSN2	

5 GAMES OUT

Angels					Dodgers				
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7-22	7-23	7-24	7-25	7-26	7-22	7-23	7-24	7-25	7-26
TB	TEX	TEX	OAK	OAK	COL	COL	COL	ARI	ARI
9:15	5:05	5:05	7:05	1:05	7:10	7:10	12:10	7:05	1:05
		KCAL/9	FSN	FOX	FSN2	FSN2	FSN2	KCOP/13	

Information: (714) 663-9000

Information: (323) 224-1448

Galaxy					Sparks				
Wed	Sat	Sat	Wed	Sat	Tue	Thu	Wed	Thu	Sat
7-30	8-9	8-16	8-20	8-23	7-22	7-24	7-30	7-31	7-26
CMB	CMB	METRO.	CHI	NE	WAS	PHO	SA	SAC	CHA
7:30	7:00	7:00	5:30	1:00	7:00	12:30	12:30	7:00	7:30
				ESPN2	OXY			ESPN2	FSN2

Information: (310) 630-2200

Information: (310) 426-6033

Home - - Away

TOUR

FROM PAGE 1

seconds back and gaining momentum, while Armstrong had struggled for days.

When he crashed, Armstrong said he told himself: "Lance, if you'd like to win the Tour de France, it's today."

He crossed the line 40 seconds ahead of Ullrich, slumped over his handlebars, drained. Thanks to bonus time he got for finishing first, Armstrong widened the gap over the 29-year-old German to 67 seconds, giving him a vital cushion for crucial days ahead to Sunday's finish in Paris.

But he could do without the drama. This has been a hard Tour for Armstrong. He battled stomach flu before the start on July 5; he was bruised in a crash on the second day; he failed to shine in the mountains where he usually dominates; he was crushed by Ullrich in a time trial Friday.

"This has been a Tour of too many problems, too many close calls, too many near misses, too many things that seem like they're worth a lifetime," Armstrong said. "I just wish it would stop. I wish I could have some uneventful days. But

anyway it was a good day today."

His dominant ride effectively knocked his second-closest rival, Alexandre Vinokourov of Kazakhstan, out of the running, and gave Armstrong a much-needed cushion going into the last time trial on Saturday.

About 5.9 miles from the finish, a spectator's outstretched bag caught Armstrong's handlebars, toppling him. Armstrong hit the tarmac heavily, but was not badly hurt. He said the fall was partly his fault because he was shaving the huge, excited crowd that lined the winding ascent. Iban Mayo of Spain crashed into Armstrong as he lay in the road and fell, too.

Ullrich, who had to swerve to avoid Mayo and Armstrong's crash, proved to be a gentleman, waiting with other riders while Armstrong and Mayo caught up. Armstrong thanked his rival but recalled that he had also slowed down for Ullrich when he crashed on a steep descent from a mountain pass in 2001.

"Jan is a good guy, he's an honorable guy," Armstrong said. "As we say in English: 'What goes around comes around,' and so I appreciate him doing that."

Results/7

Fall during hike kills Troy coach

By DAN ALBANO
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

An assistant football coach at Troy High fell from a hiking trail and died Saturday afternoon at Bass Lake, a popular spot in the Sierra Mountains where some of the school's football players and coaches were for a camping retreat.

Assistant coach Kevin King, 27, of Fullerton slipped on a steep trail above Willow Creek and fell several hundred feet over Angel Falls, said Erica Stuart, public information officer for the Madera County Sheriff Department.

King landed on the rocky Devil's Slide area and was found dead by a search and rescue team, Stuart said.

King was submerged in 8 feet of water, she said.

A preliminary cause of death showed that King died of head trauma and possible drowning, she said.

The spot where King fell is roughly 500 feet above the creek, Stuart said.

King had returned to Troy after coaching at the school two seasons ago.

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