

Daily

Sports

MLB: Dodgers' Kershaw get off to hot start and take a 3-2 Series lead

by Ben Berg

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Game 5 of the World Series between the LA Dodgers and the Tampa Bay Rays was on Sunday, Oct. 25 and the Dodgers took home the 4-2 victory. With a 3-2 series lead in hand, the Dodgers are now one win away from their first World Series title since 1988.

This series has given us plenty of high-powered pitching matchups and Sunday's contest was no different. Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers faced off against Tampa Bay's Tyler Glasnow, but Glasnow faltered early and his team was unable to overcome it. Though Kershaw largely cruised through 5.67 innings, allowing only two runs while striking out six, Glasnow allowed four runs in five innings, three of which came in the first two frames. The Rays cut the deficit to 3-2 in the third inning thanks to base hits from Yandy Diaz and Randy Arozarena, but LA added the game's final run via a solo shot from Max Muncy. The Dodgers won by a final score of 4-2.

The Dodgers have had their fair share of postseason demons in the Kershaw era. Despite the fact that Kershaw has been the best pitcher of the generation, and that the Dodgers have eight straight division titles and three trips to the World Series in the last four years,



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw, center, celebrates after their win against the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 5 of the baseball World Series Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, in Arlington, Texas. Dodgers beat the Rays 4-2 to lead the series 3-2 games. PHOTO BY SUE OGROCKI/AP

they have not won a championship since 1988. Kershaw himself has taken the most heat for these shortcomings, but he has been absolutely excellent in this postseason. In five appearances, Kershaw has gone 4-1 with a 2.93 ERA, a 0.91 WHIP and 37 strikeouts in 30.2 innings. Two of those wins have come in the World Series, where he's allowed only three earned runs in 11.2 innings of work. If the Dodgers are able to win the series, Kershaw will be well on his way to shedding the "playoff choker" moniker he's been saddled with his whole career.

If the Rays fall short of the

team's first ever World Series championship, they'll likely look back at the postseason and wish they'd gotten more from Brandon Lowe and Tyler Glasnow. Lowe, who was an all-star a year ago and the team's MVP throughout the regular season, has been dreadful in the playoffs. The franchise second-baseman is hitting .123 through 73 postseason at-bats. That's not good enough. Meanwhile, Glasnow's struggles have been largely under the radar because he routinely makes highlight reel pitches look easy. That being said, Glasnow has gone 2-3 with a 6.28 ERA and 1.50 WHIP

in 28.2 innings over six games. Though the rest of the team's pitchers have largely masked this issue, Glasnow is the centerpiece of this team's pitching staff and has not played the part. On the positive side, Randy Arozarena stroked his 27th hit of the playoffs on Sunday, giving him the most hits of all time in a single postseason. He is hitting .370 in the playoffs with nine home runs and 13 RBIs. Wow.

Game 6 will be played on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern. Blake Snell of the Rays will pitch against Tony Gonolin of the Dodgers.

AN EASTERN FINALS, A SUPERTEAM, AND A MIRACLE

by Ashton Stansel

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In 2018, Invictus Gaming was the first Chinese team to win the League of Legends World Championship. In 2019, FunPlus Phoenix became the second Chinese team in a row to hoist the Summoner's cup. Now, with one week to go, Suning Gaming will have their chance to make it the third time in a row for China, on Chinese soil. They have a chance to be one of the most surprising champions in League of Legends history, to complete one of the most improbable runs imaginable.

In spring, Suning was struggling; they ended up in 11th place in the LPL, out of the 18 teams that make up the league, and were nowhere near being on the Finals stage at the World Championship. They did better in summer, clawing their way to a fourth place finish in the regular season and a third place finish after playoffs, where they lost 3-0 to TOP Esports.

But on Sunday, they got revenge. Despite coming into the series versus TOP as serious underdogs, Suning handily won three games, losing just one, en route to claiming their spot in the semifinals in one of the biggest upsets of the tournament.

TOP collapsing is not as shocking as it could've been; we were one game away from a Fnatic vs Suning semifinal, after all, and TOP looked so shaky in that series that Fnatic seemingly threw away a victory to some extent, though TOP did recover by the end of the series to pull off a win. Despite this, though, there were clear signs that the tournament favorite might not be as good as everyone thought they were heading into the event, and Suning proved that was true.

On Saturday, DAMWON Gaming faced off against G2 Esports in a series that was not even close. While G2 esports were the underdogs, it wasn't expected for DAMWON to so thoroughly dominate the series. It was 3-1, as G2 managed to put up an okay fight in game 2, but game 4 lasted just 19 minutes and set a record for the fastest game in Worlds history.

It's a disappointing loss for the European team, who was looking to make their second Worlds final in a row, but for DAMWON it was sweet, sweet revenge. G2 eliminated DAMWON in 2019 in the quarterfinals. Even more poetically, the 2019 series was 3-1 for G2, so this was an exact reverse of that round.

See LEAGUE, p. 9

Champions League Preview: Matchday 2's big contests

by Erik Choi

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Matchday 1 of the Champions League was full of action: Real Madrid shockingly lost to a severely depleted Shakhtar Donetsk side, Manchester United picked up three convincing points against French giants Paris Saint-Germain and last season's winners Bayern Munich picked up right where they left off by putting four goals past Atlético Madrid. Matchday 2 of club football's elite competition resumes this week with some crucial and exhilarating fixtures.

Olympique Marseille vs. Manchester City

Olympique Marseille and Manchester City will face each other at the Stade Vélodrome, with both sides looking to grab a positive result to kickstart their seasons after a slow start. Pep Guardiola has made his worst start to a league season as a head coach, only managing to secure eight points out of Manchester City's opening



Manchester City's Raheem Sterling, right, and Kevin De Bruyne walk off the pitch at the end of the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham and Manchester City, at the London Olympic Stadium Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. PHOTO BY PAUL CHILDS/POOL VIA AP

five Premier League games. The "Cityzens" will still find reasons to be optimistic, as midfield maestro Kevin De Bruyne is fit to start the match. Marseille sits in fourth

place in Ligue 1, but comes off a 1-0 defeat to Olympiacos in the Champions League last week. Dimitri Payet's availability will be a big boost for Marseille, who missed the

last three Ligue 1 games after receiving a red card against Lyon three weeks ago.

See MADRID, p. 10

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

Games we're watching this week



Dodgers



vs.

Rays

Teams we're paying attention to



Athletes we're paying attention to

Ji-Man Choi

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconn
Have you registered to vote? Tuesday, Oct. 27 is the deadline to register to vote in Connecticut!

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Quinnipiac Bobcats Sports Network

@QBSN

According to Sacred Heart head coach C.J. Marottolo, on Nov. 24 Sacred Heart will open their season at Quinnipiac.

These two teams faced off in the CT Ice tournament final, where Sacred Heart won 4-1. [@DanGardella]

#ECACHockey

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Mike'd Up: The ideal Red Sox offseason

by Mike Mavredakis

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Photos via AP and Flickr

The Boston Red Sox were just awful this season, nearly impossible to watch. That's over now, thankfully. With the World Series well on its way to finishing and the last game scheduled for Wednesday night, it's time to turn the page to the offseason.

Boston has quite a few areas that need to be addressed this offseason if

they have any intention to contend this upcoming season. This is my ideal Red Sox offseason.

The offseason timeline is as follows, according to CBS: Five days after the World Series Free Agency starts, then Dec. 6 to 10 is going to be the Winter Meetings and then clubs start spring training on Feb. 27, 2021.

The manager: Not Alex Cora

I have no interest in talking about sign stealing ever again, so bringing Alex Cora back to Boston would be incredibly maddening. The whole baseball community probably generated enough internal heat fuming over what the Houston Astros, Red Sox and likely 60% of baseball did to collectively heat up a fresh batch of garlic bread from the grocery store. Let's just not do that again, okay? It does unfortunately look like Cora will be back, though, after Jon Heyman tweeted he had the support

of "owners, players and fans" and is viewed as the favorite for the job.

Even if he doesn't land in Boston, I find it hard to believe he won't be managing somewhere in the majors next season. There's no escaping sign stealing.

Options: Don Kelly, Luis Urieta, Will Venable, James Rowson, George Lombard or Mike Bell

Second base: Cesar Hernandez

The right side of the Red Sox infield has been drastically unstable in comparison to the left side, which is essentially written in stone. Dustin Pedroia is probably not going to come back, but we'll get to that later.

Hernandez is not a sexy pick, but he's a switch hitter and a consistent hitter. He can swipe some bags, he'll hit a solid amount of doubles – which he led the American League in this past season with 20 – and he can provide near Gold Glove caliber defense.

He'll be 31 years old next season, so giving him a two or three year deal at around \$8 million a year would do quite nicely.

Other options: Jose Iglesias, Tommy La Stella or Asdrubal Cabrera

What an absolute dumpster fire of a season this was in the rotation. They had 16 different pitchers start a game this season, which would be extraordinary in a normal 162 game season. However this was a 60-game season, meaning they used a new starter every 3.75 games. That's

The rotation: Anyone with a pulse not named Mike Kickham

not even a full rotation turn. Even if you adjust that to account for the original five-man rotation, that's still a new starter every five games after the first run through the rotation.

They had one starter under a four ERA with Nathan Eovaldi's 3.72 in nine starts. They started Zack Godley in seven games this season – he had an 8.16 ERA.

Chief Baseball Officer has a few options: he can go

for broke and give

likely NL Cy Young

Trevor Bauer a

high-dollar,

low-year of-

fer, bring in

some buy-

low and

hope to

develop

options

like Taijaun

Walker

and Robbie

Ray or

stand put

and hope Eduardo Rodriguez and Chris Sale come back strong.

My ideal out of those options would be to bring in Taijaun Walker, decline Martin Perez' option but bring him back on a two-year deal for about \$7.5 million per year and let Tanner Houck do his thing.

Walker is reaching free agency at 28 years old, but he's only pitched a combined 67.1 innings over the last three seasons. In eight big league seasons, he has pitched just 581.2 innings. That raises two important points. He has seen his fair share of injuries, which is concerning, but that means there has been limited mileage on his arm.

He was fantastic for the Toronto Blue Jays after they acquired him from the Seattle Mariners at the trade deadline. In six starts he had a 1.37 ERA with 25 strikeouts over 26.1 innings. His walks are a bit concerning giving 3.8 free passes per nine innings last season, but anything is better than Mike Kickham.

Other options: Brett Anderson, Anthony DeSclafani or Felix Hernandez

The Bullpen: Look for potential to develop, don't spend too much

As we have seen in spades this postseason, the

Tampa Bay Rays have

an incredibly deep bull-

pen. It was largely built on

pieces they acquired from other organizations or signed as minor league free agents. That is exactly what Chaim Bloom needs to do here. Whenever relievers have

come with a high-price tag in the past decade, it has rarely panned out.

The only one I can think of is when the New York Yankees signed noted domestic abuser Aroldis Chapman to a huge contract, after he had already played with the organization the season before.

Go cheap and don't hold onto a reliever when they're bad.

Outfield: Michael Brantley or Marcell Ozuna

If they are going to spend money this offseason, here is where I'd like it to be. Here are two just professional hitters

who can provide consistent offense to a team that needs it with their current pitching situation. Both can be had in the \$15 to \$20

million per year range at three to four years.

Other options: Shin-Soo Choo or Nick Markakis

Let Dustin Pedroia follow his heart

There have been few players

who have dedicated as

much time and effort into a

franchise as Dustin Pedroia.

Admittedly, I'm slightly bi-

ased because he was my fa-

vorite player growing up.

I want him to get the send

off he wants and deserves.

Therefore, they should by no

means cut him or force him to

retire if he's not ready.

He has one more year at

\$12.125 million this season;

let him do what he feels he

needs to. He's earned it and

the extra 40-man roster spot

isn't going to be worth souring

one of the more important

relationships the team has to

maintain. Pedroia is Boston.

Forcing him out will not be

forgotten by fans, nor the La-

ser Show himself.

The 40-man roster is fac-

ing a crunch, with many of

the recently acquired players

needing to be added in order

to protect them in the Rule 5

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Throwback Photo of the Day | Press F to pay respects to Fairfield



In this file photo, the Huskies defeated Fairfield 2-1 in sudden death overtime at the Sherman Family Sports Complex. The Huskies came back from a 0-1 deficit with two goals scored by Svea Boker and Sophie Hamilton respectively. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, PHOTO EDITOR

Hey Dave: Is Ansu Fati the heir to Lionel Messi?

by David Sandoval

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Seeing young soccer players go through a club's academy and end up playing for that same team always makes fans happy, as they can see the young players' careers flourish right before their eyes. Some iconic homegrown players include Marcus Rashford at Manchester United, Harry Kane at Tottenham and Lionel Messi over at Barcelona, to name a few.

Speaking of Barcelona, many are still unsure about Messi's future, as the ques-

tion of him leaving at the end of the 2020/21 season is still in the air. Because of this, there have been many speculations as to how the Catalonian club are going to fill such big shoes when the Argentine legend leaves. Some think the club should buy a youngster that has already proven themselves to be a lethal goalscorer, like Erling Håland for example (only in one's dreams). On the other hand, fans believe bringing a player from La Masia, Barcelona's youth academy, who holds great potential can easily fill in Messi's spot. The latter are correct; and as a matter of fact Barcelona already has a homegrown player who can fill in for Messi: 17-year-old Ansu Fati.

Despite losing 3-1 in Saturday's El Clásico against rivals Real Madrid, the youngster managed to get a remarkable achievement: becoming the



highest-scoring player under the age of 18 in La Liga history since the 1930s

with 11 career total goals. Not only did Fati obtain this personal achievement, he's also obtained other accolades to add to his early career, such as becoming the youngest starter and youngest goalscorer at the Camp Nou last year, being the club's youngest Champions League goalscorer and being the youngest player ever in the European competition to score two goals. That's only a few of the many achievements he's gotten, folks.

I wanted to wait a couple of weeks into the 2020/21 season to write this column, but I didn't want to call my shot too early. After his most recent personal achievement, and his incredible performance so far, I think I have seen enough of the player to answer one question: Is he the heir to Messi? Yes, simple as

that. I strongly believe the 17-year-old holds great potential for the club and can take Messi's throne when the time comes. With the Blaugrana in a sort of limbo stage of its history due to conflicts with the board, Ansu Fati is the light to Barcelona's future.

Even if you were to look up highlights of his skills and goals on YouTube, you'll be quick to see he's as electric of a player as Messi was when he started playing for the senior team in the early 2000s. I won't say he'll become a better player than Messi, but he has enough potential to be almost right up there with him. Having scored five games of the six he's played so far this season, along with the eight goals he scored in 33 games last season, he'll definitely be on the target list for many of Europe's giant clubs in the future.

Barcelona fans just have to hope the club doesn't sell the prodigy later down the line just like they have with other young prospects from La Masia, but that's a talk for another day.

Champions League action continues, including a matchup between Messi and Ronaldo

MADRID, cont. from p. 12

RB Salzburg vs. Atlético Madrid

Atlético Madrid and RB Salzburg come into this match having won against Real Betis and Austria Wien, respectively. Both teams are searching for their first win in this year's Champions League campaign. Atlético Madrid suffered a 4-0 defeat at the hands of Bayern Munich last week in the Champions League, while RB Salzburg were held to a 2-2 draw against Lokomotiv Moscow. Although Atlético Madrid may enter this game as the favorite, RB Salzburg have consistently punched above its weight, and a close match should be expected.

Atalanta vs. Ajax

Erik ten Hag's Ajax comes into this fixture off of a 1-0 win against VVV-Venlo, setting the record for the biggest win in Eredivisie history. During this game, Lassina Traoré, the Burkina Faso international striker, bagged five goals and Dutch midfielder Jurgen Ekkelenkamp scored two for himself. Meanwhile, Atalanta suffered a 3-1 defeat to Sampdoria in Serie A, meaning Atalanta has now conceded seven goals in their last two league



Real Madrid and Barcelona players run for the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020. PHOTO BY JOAN MONFORT, AP

games. Gian Piero Gasperini's men will approach this game with their typical scintillating, attacking style of soccer, while Ajax will undoubtedly be high in confidence and aim to secure their first points of the 2020-21 Champions League campaign.

Manchester United vs. RB Leipzig

Manchester United made an ideal start in the Champions League, beating last year's finalists in the competition, Paris Saint-Germain, 2-1 in France last week. RB Leipzig has made a strong start in the competition this year as well, comfortably winning 2-0 against Istanbul Basaksehir.

RB Leipzig's Upemecano, a standout performer in last year's Champions League, will pose a large challenge for Manchester United's talented frontline. Despite losing talisman Timo Werner to Chelsea this summer, RB Leipzig still boast an impressive squad, with the likes of Yussuf Poulsen and Angelino enjoying a lively start to the season. Meanwhile, Manchester United will try and play through Bruno Fernandes, who has been their standout player since his arrival in January of this year. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will have the dynamic new signings Donny van de Beek and Edinson Cavani to

bring off the bench and inject some energy as the match progresses.

Sevilla vs. Rennes

This Group E fixture pits reigning Europa League champions Sevilla against Rennes. Both sides only managed to secure a point in last week's round of Champions League fixtures and will surely be hungry for all three points. Rennes enter this fixture as underdogs, with this being the club's first season in the Champions League. The French outfit resides in third place in Ligue 1, but has not won a game in over two weeks. Julen Lopetegui's Sevilla suffered a surprising

defeat to Eibar in La Liga this past weekend but will look to make a statement in this upcoming match.

Juventus vs. Barcelona

The headliner of this week's fixtures will potentially see Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus face Lionel Messi and a new-look Barcelona. Ronaldo's appearance in this match still hinges upon a negative COVID-19 test 24 hours prior to the game, with the Portuguese forward having tested positive for the virus on Oct. 13. Both Juventus and Barcelona have made positive starts to their Champions League campaigns in Group G with winning starts against Dynamo Kyiv and Ferencvaros, respectively. Barcelona most recently lost 3-1 to bitter rivals Real Madrid and will be hoping to recover by grabbing a positive result in Turin. The Catalan club has experienced a revolution this past summer. New manager Ronald Koeman has heavily incorporated new youngsters, such as Sergiño Dest, Pedri and Ansu Fati into the first team. Fati became the second-youngest scorer in El Clásico this past weekend, and the 17-year-old will aim to add to his impressive goal tally for the season against the Italian champions.

Premier League Recap: A very slow weekend

by Ty Reeves
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It seemed like the Premier League finally went back to normal this past weekend. No dramatic score lines or crazy plays, just a very plain weekend. Everton finally has an L in the loss column after losing to Southampton, nothing could separate Manchester United and Chelsea and Jamie Vardy single-handedly took care of Arsenal at the Emirates.

Everton: 0, Southampton: 2

Everton and Carlo Ancelotti finally suffered defeat in the Premier League. The Toffees fell at the hands of Southampton which ties them with Liverpool at the top of the Premier League, both with 13 points.

The game got off to a fast start with Everton being the aggressor. In the 18th minute, midfielder Gylfi Sigurðsson took a shot for Everton and struck the crossbar. Winger James Rodriguez also had a chance early on for a free kick just outside the Southampton box. However, it was Southampton who would get on the board first in the 27th minute when captain James Ward-Prowse slotted the ball into the bottom left corner to give Southampton a 1-0 lead. They quickly doubled their lead less than ten minutes later when the ball was crossed into the box by Danny Ings and settled at the feet of Che Adams who put the ball into the back of the net.

The second half was less action-packed as both teams were unable to create any major chances. Everton defender Digne received a red card in the 72nd minute after committing a questionable foul before the final whistle blew, sealing Southampton's win.



Everton's James Rodriguez shoots during an English Premier League soccer match between Southampton and Everton at the St. Mary's stadium in Southampton, England, Sunday Oct. 25, 2020. PHOTO BY NAOMI BAKER/POOL VIA AP

Chelsea: 0, Manchester United: 0

Chelsea versus Manchester United did not live up to its headline. The match brought nothing but frustration for the players, managers and fans, with neither team bringing any energy to the pitch.

Neither side had any real opportunities through the first half and they both had their spells in possession. Chelsea's best chance came in the 32nd minute when Christian Pulisic won the ball in the middle of the field. Pulisic then drove forward and lined up a shot that just went by the far post. Manchester United then had chance minutes later when winger Marcus Rashford made a scampering run down the field. He then shot, forcing

Chelsea keeper Edouard Mendy to make a save. Right before the stroke of halftime, Chelsea had what looked like a sure penalty, only to have it waved off by the official.

The second half was the same as the first with neither club having any sort of major change. The best chance of the game came in stoppage time as United defender Aaron Wan-Bisakka whipped a cross into the Chelsea box. After a failed clearance, the ball fell to Rashford at the end of the box who struck it toward the top right corner of the net. Mendy then made another crucial save, which secured a point for both teams. Edison Cavani also made his first appearance for Manchester United during the match.

Arsenal: 0, Leicester: 1

Arsenal versus Leicester looked like a stalemate until Leicester's lord and savior Jamie Vardy came onto the field. The not-fully-fit striker was the difference between the two teams awarding the foxes a crucial three points.

The first half was all Gunners all the time, with Arsenal handling a majority of the possession during the first 45 minutes and creating multiple opportunities. It looked as though they would take an early lead in the first three minutes of the match when striker Alexandre Lacazette headed the ball into the back of the net, but the goal was waved off for offside and goalie interference. The Gunners had multiple opportunities after the

goal was waved off but weren't able to convert.

In the second half of play the game seemed stagnant, neither team seemed interested in scoring. Leicester played the park the bus tactic and let Arsenal have possession of the ball in their half. Arsenal held possession of the ball, but to say creativity was lacking is an understatement. Leicester finally got their chance to strike in the 80th minute and they made it count. Wingers Cengiz Ünder made a run behind the Arsenal defense and crossed the ball into the middle of the box, finding the head of Vardy, and he could not miss. That goal was enough to propel the Foxes over the Gunners in a stunning 1-0 win.

Cantlay's strong Sunday propels him to 3rd PGA Tour win of career

by Matthew Garry
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Patrick Cantlay started Sunday at the ZOZO Championship four shots behind two top-10 players in the world and was hoping just to be in contention at the end of his round. He instead outplayed them and the rest of the field, shooting a 65 to win by one shot over Justin Thomas and Jon Rahm.

Thomas started the day leading by one over the rest of the field and started the final round off strong with consecutive birdies to open his day. However, he was unable to get into a rhythm after that. Rather than capitalizing on scoring holes, he had to scramble to make par on many of the par 5s. He was only able to make birdie twice after that, on the sixth and 18th holes. A costly bogey on the par-3 15th put him two behind Cantlay, and he was never able to make up the ground.

Cantlay's round was much more eventful, as he posted five birdies and a bogey on the front nine and four more birdies on the back, three coming in a row from the 13th to 15th. However, he had built himself a steady lead to that point and was able to par the rest of the way to win for the third time in his career.

Tiger Woods' return to golf this weekend was definitely not what fans were looking for, as he finished tied for 72nd after posting only one round in the 60s. This may have been the last time we will ever see him and Phil Mickelson together on a Sunday, however, as the two leg-



Patrick Cantlay hits from the 18th fairway during the final round of the Zozo Championship golf tournament Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, in Thousand Oaks, California. PHOTO BY RINGO H.W. CHIU, AP

endary golfers were grouped for the final day of the tournament. Mickelson struggled as well, finishing second-to-last after shooting a disappointing 78.

With the Masters only two short weeks away, the Tour heads to Bermuda for the Bermuda Championship at Port Royal Golf, which should bring another weekend of

low-scoring golf. Many big names are taking this weekend off in preparation for the Masters and will be expected to play next week's Houston Open.

LEAGUE OF LEGENDS RECAP

LEAGUE, cont. from p. 12

DAMWON will be Suning's opponent on Saturday when they face off in the best-of-five grand final. The last two grand finals, Invictus Gaming vs. Fnatic and FunPlus Phoenix vs. G2, have both been 3-0 blowouts, so fans will be eagerly hoping that this final might be a little more interesting. If it's anything like the series Suning has had so far, they're going to try to play to the level of their opponent. But DAMWON is the team on the other side of the server, undisputedly the best Korean team this year, the best Korean team at Worlds and the favorites.

But DAMWON is the team on the other side of the server, undisputedly the best Korean team this year, the best Korean team at Worlds and the favorites.

This has been a magical season for Suning, from 11th place in spring to the World Finals in October. Now they need to push that magic a little bit further, because this is going to be the hardest series of these players' lives. DAMWON are so much the favorites that a loss would probably be the most surprising upset in Finals history. On the other hand, Suning has already made it two rounds further than they were supposed to. Now, they just need one more miracle.