

Kapler takes a belt after going 0-for-6

■ Home run in 13th gives Brewers a 3-game lead in wild card race

MILWAUKEE (AP) — After going hitless in his first six at-bats Sunday, Milwaukee's Gabe Kapler was ready to spend a long night at home pondering his poor play. Instead, he gave himself and the Brewers something to remember.

The reserve outfielder homered off the pole in left leading off the 13th inning and the Milwaukee Brewers came back from a late three-run deficit for a 5-4 victory over the Nationals.

"Today's game was, overall, not a comfortable game from a personal standpoint," he said. "I didn't feel very good overall."

In his first six at-bats, he went 0-for-6, striking out twice, reaching once on an error and only getting one ball out of the infield.

"I knew that barring something like that happening for me, I was

probably going to go home and have a pretty rough night," he said. "Now, I can go home and look forward to tomorrow. It's a nice feeling."

Kapler's shot off Luis Ayala (1-8) was his first career walk-off homer and gave Milwaukee its fifth consecutive victory.

Ayala, who had just entered the game, has a 6.04 ERA.

"We can't even hide him now," Washington manager Manny Acta said. "He comes into situations like this and he's just not making pitches."

Starting for the injured Ryan Braun, Kapler watched intently from near the plate as the ball hit the pole, then quickly jogged around the bases.

"At first I thought it was going to stay fair for sure, then I saw it had kind of had a little lean to it," he said. "I wasn't positive whether it would stay fair. I'm glad it did."

The Brewers had chances to end it earlier, but stranded the winning run on second base in the ninth and 11th innings, and left the bases loaded in the 10th. The team was 3-

for-15 with runners in scoring position and left 16 on base.

"We had opportunities to score there every inning," Milwaukee manager Ned Yost said. "We just couldn't capitalize on it."

Milwaukee fell behind 4-1 in the eighth when Eric Gagne allowed a two-run homer by Austin Kearns followed by a solo shot from Lastings Milledge.

The Brewers tied it in the bottom of the inning on Mike Rivera's three-run double off closer Joel Hanrahan. Reliever Saul Rivera allowed a single to Bill Hall between walks to Prince Fielder and Mike Cameron to load the bases before being replaced by Hanrahan with two outs.

Rivera, making only his 12th start this year, drove the ball to the left field wall, allowing all three runners to score without a play and tying the score at 4.

Rivera was on base five times, going 2-for-3 with three of the Brewers 13 walks. In only 54 at-bats, Rivera is batting .333 with 14 RBI.

"It feels great," Rivera said of his game. "All the time I wait for this

kind of moment."

Washington starter John Lannan took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, allowing only a single to Corey Hart that glanced off second baseman Emilio Bonifacio's glove with one out in the sixth.

"This guy had a no hitter going into the sixth inning without his best stuff," Acta said. "He ran his pitch count with those five walks, but we're so happy for this kid. We've got a pitcher here. He's got four pitches and he can throw them for strikes."

Bill Hall followed with a sacrifice fly to right that easily scored Kapler from third to tie the score at 1. Kapler reached on a grounder to third, and first baseman Ronnie Belliard was charged with an error when he couldn't handle the throw from Ryan Zimmerman.

Lannan walked five and struck out six in six innings.

Milwaukee starter Manny Parra went seven innings, giving up one run on six hits and no walks while tying a career-high with nine strikeouts.

FROM B1 REDBIRDS:

Olsen and a sacrifice by Johnson.

Campbell, Olsen and Francour each had two hits for the Redbirds. Anderson went 3-for-4 for Felch.

Brian Kushava and Brukaradt combined for the shutout against McAllister. Kushava struck out 10 and allowed just three hits and two walks in his seven innings to earn the win. Brukaradt completed his weekend of hitless relief and didn't allow a walk in his two innings.

Marinette (11-5) took a 2-0 lead on singles by Olsen, Dustin Kovar and Steve Campbell. Jake Gasser, Ben LaCombe and Kovar slapped singles in the fourth to nudge the lead to 3-0.

Brukaradt poked a single in the fifth and Gasser drove him in with a sacrifice fly to push the lead to 4-0.

Campbell drilled a double and Brukaradt, Francour, Kushava, Gasser and Kovar rapped singles during a three-run salvo in the sixth.

Campbell, Brukaradt, Gasser and Kovar each had two hits.

Marinette 5, Felch 4
WP — Johnson 7IP, 4R, 4ER, 9H, 1W, 7K

Save — Brukaradt 2IP, 0R, 0ER, 0H, 0W, 2K

LP — Otis 8IP, 5R, 5ER, 8H, 6W, 4K

Leading Hitters: (Marinette)
Campbell 2x4; Francour 2x3; Olsen 2x4. **(Felch)** D. Anderson 3x4; W. Holsworth 2x5; Carr 2x5

Felch 000 110 200 — 4
Marinette 200 300 00X — 5

Marinette 7, McAllister 0
WP — Kushava 7IP, 0R, 0ER, 3H, 2W, 10K

LP — Ninnemann 6IP, 7R, 7ER, 13H, 2W, 3K

Leading Hitters: (Marinette)
Campbell 2x4; Brukaradt 2x5; Gasser 2x3; Kovar 2x3. **(McAllister)** Martz 1x4; Ninneman 1x3

McAllister 000 000 000 — 0
Marinette 020 113 00X — 7

IN BRIEF

Midland wins state Legion title

GLADSTONE, Mich. — Midland Berryhill defeated defending champion Blissfield 11-7 Saturday to win the Michigan American Legion state title.

Berryhill outscored its opponents 69-22 while going 4-0 in the tournament. Blissfield advanced to the title round with an 8-5 win over Auburn Hills.

It's the 15th state title for Midland Berryhill. Midland advances to the Great Lakes regional tournament in Chillicothe, Ohio, Thursday.



EagleHerald/Jody Korch

Sealing the outside

Aric Chaltry of the M&M Timberjacks follows the block of Dan Ries for first-half yardage during Saturday's win over the Summit Stampeders at Spies Field. (Color reprints: www.ehextra.com)

FROM B1

T-JACKS:

Three plays later, Dan Ries plunged in from 1 yard out, and the lead grew to 19-0 with 10 minutes in the half.

Another three-and-out later, the Timberjacks took over at their own 32. Shutte made a terrific over-the-shoulder catch for a 49-yard gain, and he caught a 28-yard TD pass from Hoheneder, who booted the extra point for a 26-0 lead with 5:54 in the half.

"They were just straight bombs," according to Shutte. "Randy put the ball up there. They were in a man. Anytime someone plays up on me, coach likes to call my number because I have the speed. Also, credit the offensive line for giving the quarterback enough time to throw the ball."

Ries connected with Hoheneder on a 37-yard pass to set up the team's final score of the half. Shutte's 14-yard TD catch capped a four-play, 72-yard drive with 1:52 in the half.

"They load the box and they roll their corners up," Plautz explained of his team's passing success. "They were giving us press single safety. Zak is so darn quick and fast, we're going to take that matchup nine times out of 10."

M&M Timberjacks 39, Summit Stampeders 7

First Quarter
M&M — Randy Hoheneder 71-yard pass to Zak Shutte (Hoheneder kick), 12:35

M&M — Shutte 40-yard run (kick failed), 2:25

Second Quarter
M&M — Dan Ries 1-yard run (kick failed), 10:00
M&M — Hoheneder 28-yard pass to Shutte (Hoheneder kick), 5:54

M&M — Hoheneder — 14-yard pass to Shutte (kick failed), 1:52

Busch answers skeptics

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. (AP) — If Kyle Busch has a weakness, it's apparently going to be awfully difficult to find.

After rivals Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon said during the week they thought he was slipping following two straight lackluster finishes, Busch answered by making NASCAR history on Sunday. He led 52 laps from the pole and won the Centurion Boats at The Glen at Watkins Glen International to become the first driver in NASCAR's history to win three road course races in one season.

"That's pretty neat, pretty special to me," said Busch, who finished second Saturday in the Nationwide race here. "To be a force to be reckoned with means a lot. This year has just been phenomenal. It's just crazy." Busch, who also

clinched the top spot in the 10-race Chase for the Sprint Cup title, has won 16 races in NASCAR's top three series this season — eight in Sprint Cup, six in Nationwide and two in trucks. His win Sunday completed a trifecta on road courses that includes the Nationwide race in Mexico in April and the Cup race at Sonoma in June.

Busch also joined another select group. Only Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart and Robby Gordon had swept both Cup road course events in the same year.

"That kid's awesome," said Steve Addington, Busch's crew chief. "I can't believe we don't win a race in three or four weeks and we're in a slump."

Actually, Busch has won four of the past seven races, and Sunday's victory gives him 80 bonus points

for the Chase, 50 more than Carl Edwards with four races remaining before the postseason. Drivers get 10 bonus points for a victory.

After a 43-minute red-flag stoppage due to a multitar pileup with eight laps to go, Busch held off Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Stewart, who was bidding for his fifth win here in seven starts. Stewart settled for his second straight runner-up finish and moved within 10 points of Jeff Gordon for sixth in the standings.

"I never could get the runs in the right spots," said Stewart, who also has finished second twice here in the past three years. "I needed to stay with him to be close enough to try to make a move in a braking zone. We never could get close enough to get an opportunity."

OLYMPICS:

tie with the Netherlands on Sunday night and swallow a lot of frustration.

"We were very close to being in the quarterfinals, and now we are very far," U.S. coach Peter Nowak said. "Before the game, nobody gave us a chance. And I think we played pretty good. You can look at his as half empty or half full."

The result left the United States with four points, tied atop Group B with Nigeria and two ahead of the

FROM B1

Netherlands. Japan has zero. Only two teams advance.

The U.S. team faces off against the Nigerians on Wednesday in the final group game for both in Beijing. The Dutch will need a victory against Japan while the United States, with a superior goal difference to Nigeria, will require only a tie to advance.

"I'm still really bummed," U.S. midfielder Robbie Rogers said. "That's the best I've seen us play."

Robertson regains his winning form for Tigers

DETROIT (AP) — It's been a long time since Nate Robertson last won a game.

The Tigers starter earned his first victory in more than six weeks, allowing five hits pitching into the eighth inning to lift Detroit past the Oakland Athletics, 6-1 on Sunday.

Curtis Granderson homered and Magglio Ordonez drove in two runs for Detroit, which took two of three from the A's. Oakland lost for the 12th time in 13 games.

Robertson (7-8) allowed a walk and one run, striking out five in 7 2-3 innings to win for the first time since June 21. Fernando Rodney finished for his third save in seven chances.

"There's plenty of games that I pitched well," Robertson said. "I just tried to go out and pitch well again. That's it."

U.S. nips France in 400 relay

BEIJING (AP) — Jason Lezak outtouched Alain Bernard of France at the wall Monday to give the United States a victory in the 400-meter freestyle relay and keep alive Michael Phelps' bid for eight Olympic gold medals.

Lezak overtook the Frenchman to win in 3 minutes, 8.24 seconds, breaking the world record of 3:12.23 set by the Americans in Sunday's preliminaries.

France took the silver in 3:08.32. Australia earned the bronze in 3:09.91.

Phelps' hopes of breaking Mark Spitz's record of seven golds in a single games appeared doomed when the French took over the lead at the 250 mark. They were 4.03 seconds under world-record pace at 350 meters before Lezak, the oldest American male swimmer at 32, rallied over the closing strokes.

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MEMORY LANE

By Jon Wangerin of The EagleHerald

1951

■ St. Norbert's defeated Stephenson 13-7. Ken Hofer had a touchdown run of 68 yards in the game that was played in Green Bay.

Hofer credits this game for being noticed by University of Wisconsin scouts and eventually getting an athletic scholarship from U.W.

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■ Menominee defeated Marinette in the M&M Game 13-12. John Moerchen scored all 13 points for the Maroons.

That same night Newberry defeated Stephenson under the lights at Stephenson. Newberry hadn't lost a football game in three years. Newberry would go on to beat out Menominee for the Barber Trophy.

1952

■ Wallace defeated Foster City in Wishigan League baseball action 21-12. Wallace had 22 hits in the game.

The leadoff batter for Wallace went 0-7. Every other Wallace hitter had at least two hits in the game.

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■ The Walton Blesch Field all time track and field records and the year that they were set.

Shot Put - Harry Clark, Marinette, 1945.
Pole Vault - Tom Olson, Kingsford, 1932.
High Jump - Melvin Peterson, Marinette, 1928.
Long Jump - Tom Chrisman, Kingsford, 1932.
100-Yard-Dash - Vic Fochesato, Hermansville, 1950.
220-Yard-Dash - Tom Johnson, Iron Mountain, 1930.
440-Yard-Dash - Herm Hiethie, Escanaba, 1924.
880-Yard-Run - Tom Pedo, Vulcan, 1925.
Mile Run - John Murphy, Iron Mountain, 1947.
120-Yard-High-Hurdles - Jack Plautz, Marinette, 1949.
180-Yard-Low Hurdles - Loren Wall, Menominee, 1951.
Medley Relay - Menominee, 1949. Relay members were: Dick Lemery, John Arnost, Don LaCourt and Don Stewart.

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■ Stephenson defeated Peshtigo in a dual track meet 51-49. Ken Hofer won the 100 and 220-yard-dashes. Defeating star sprinter, Bob Neumann of Peshtigo.

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■ Hofer and his Menominee Maroons go into the 2008 football season with two state championships in a row and 28 games won in a row.

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