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Rookie starter boosts Orioles

By RICH DUBROFF
For The Capital

BALTIMORE — Suddenly, the Orioles believe they may have found another starter for next season.

Jay Spurgeon, 24, made his first major-league start yesterday, and it was a highly successful one. He allowed just two runs over seven innings, giving up a two-run homer in the second. Spurgeon picked up the victory and then got a beer shower from his joyful teammates after the game.

Spurgeon's efforts helped the Orioles take three of four from

O'S PERCH



When: Tomorrow, 7:35 p.m.
Where: Oriole Park
O's starter: Jose Mercedes (9-5)
Tigers' starter: Hideo Nomo (5-10)
TV: HTS. **Radio:** 1090-AM
Outlook: After an off-day today, the Orioles open a three-game series against the Tigers, who are trying to chin themselves up over the .500 bar for the season. The teams will play Tuesday through Thursday at Camden Yards. After that, the Orioles embark on a 12-game road trip that will keep them away from home for the first half of September.

Tampa Bay over the weekend, and kept them safely out of last place in the American League East. The Orioles have won six of their last eight, and yesterday's 3-2 victory over the Devil Rays before 36,078 at Oriole Park put them 2½ games ahead of the last-place visitors.

Because of Saturday's doubleheader and the absence of Pat Rapp following the death of his father last week, Orioles' manager Mike Hargrove was short on starting pitchers yesterday. So he decided to audition Spurgeon, whose rapid rise this season may give hope to others in the organization.

"What's the best thing? Just everything — just getting a big league win, getting my first one, getting it out of the way. Hopefully I'll have more," Spurgeon said.

"It's been such a ride — from A ball to the big leagues. It's been so much fun, an incredible experience."

Spurgeon didn't even think to ask for the game ball, but Sidney Ponson remembered to retrieve it and handed it to him. Minutes later, he was told to come to the showers for a team meeting. Once there, his teammates doused him with beer.

"Once I started walking in there, they got me," he said. "It was great. They made me feel like I'm part of the team."

"He exceeded our expectations."



A car waiting to turn on to Farragut Road from Schley Road has a long wait ahead as a record field of more than 4,000 runners passes by during the Annapolis 10-Mile Race yesterday.

By John Gillis — The Capital

A RECORD RUN

More than 4,000 compete in annual race

By ERIN HORAN
Staff Writer

While temperatures in the 70s were easier to handle than sweltering heat of past Annapolis 10-Mile Runs, no one could label yesterday's race as simple.

"It was much better than past A-10s," said race director Ron Bowman. "But it was still challenging for a 10-mile run."

Despite high humidity and a hilly course, 4,100 runners, up from 3,322 last year, finished the 25th running of the race.

The male and female overall winners yesterday were both Marylanders. David Brendle of Baltimore completed the course in 55:14.9 to win the overall title, while Jill Hargis of Annapolis clocked in at 1:01:26 to top the women's field.

Anthony Basile of Colorado Springs, Colo., finished at 56:06 to repeat as the male masters winner. The female master winner was Baltimore's Pat Wilkerson, who finished in 1:08:58.

None of the winners came close to matching the course record of 48:09, set by Terry Baker in 1980. The women's course record is 56:12, set by Eleanor Simonsick in 1982. The masters records are 53:48 and 1:00:36, set in 1994 by James Pryde and in 1991 by Rose Malloy, respectively.

Two runners, a man and a woman, were treated for heat-related illness and dehydration



Baltimore's David Brendle, left, and Jill Hargis of Annapolis, right, were the top male and female finishers in yesterday's Annapolis 10-mile Run.

By John Gillis — The Capital

yesterday. That is not an uncommon occurrence for the annual end-of-the-summer race, said Bowman, the race's director for the past four years.

Three years ago, the race had its first and only fatality, when a runner had an apparent heart attack during the run. The next year, another runner collapsed from a viral infection, but was revived.

The 10-mile run, started in 1976 by seven friends looking to design a gender fitness challenge, has grown over the years into one of

the top 10-mile races in the country. As in years past, many residents lined the streets to cheer for the runners. Some turned on their garden hoses or set up water stations to offer support to the runners.

The race's popularity hit an all-time high this year. With the event in its 25th year, an article in *Runner's World* magazine touting it and the convenience of online registration, the race filled up faster than ever. Registration

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Duke a reprieve from

He gets cut then returns

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — For five hours, Chad Dukes was unemployed. Then the NFL pointed out a mistake on the Washington Redskins roster.

On the day that teams submit their 53-man rosters for the opening week of the regular season, the Redskins listed suspended guard Tre Johnson. The team was hoping Johnson would be able to practice with the team even though he'll be serving a one-game suspension during the opener for striking an official last season.

The league said no. Johnson had to stay away for the next seven days, and he can't count on to return.

The beneficiary is Dukes, who turned in his playbook and left Redskins Park after being one of the players cut by Turner yesterday morning. Now the versatile former Arena Football League running back gets a reprieve — for at least a week.

"I told Chad when he left at about 10:30, I was going to do everything I could to get him back on the team," Turner said. "I didn't know it was going to be at 3:30."

"I was hoping Tre could practice this week and continue to interact and be part of our meetings. So I was going to go as long as I could before someone told us he couldn't."

The final round of cuts also determined

Ravens

OWINGS MILLS (AP) — The Baltimore Ravens reduced their roster to 54 players yesterday by releasing an injury settlement with three players and waiving defensive tackle Martin Chase and Marquise Douglas.

The Ravens compensated tight end Greg DeLong (ankle), wide receiver Marcus Nash (jaw) and center Rod Payne (quad).

DeLong had 13 catches for 100 yards and a touchdown last year but became expendable after the Ravens signed free agent tight end Shannon Sharpe and Ben Coates.

Nash missed a chance to make the team when he fractured his jaw early in training camp.

Are stars in alignment for Venus Williams

If she wins U.S. Open, she'll have to defend

NEW YORK (AP) — The numbers add up for Venus Williams.

Seven more victories would run her consecutive match winning streak to 26, give her her fifth consecutive title and her second straight Grand Slam tournament victory.

Nothing, it seems, can stop Tiger Woods. Yesterday he won for the second straight week on the PGA Tour, and for the eighth time in 16

Nicolescu. Williams defended the Wimbledon title.



SPORTS

On Sunday, Belle finally gets a rest

By RICH DUBROFF
For The Capital

BALTIMORE — For the first time in 232 games, Albert Belle rested yesterday. Manager Mike Hargrove decided to sit Belle, who is hitting .207 in his last 33 games.

For the year, Belle is batting .279 with 22 homers and 93 RBIs.

"I'm just giving him a day off. It's not at all," Hargrove said. "It's a day (yesterday), and a day (today). He'll be back in the lineup tomorrow. I think it's a matter of just giving him a breather. Sometimes guys need that."

The Orioles have today off before beginning a three-game series at home against the Tigers.

"I won't say he won't get another day (of rest), but I would be surprised if he gets another day off the rest of the year," Hargrove said.

Belle's previous day off came on June 11, 1999 when former Orioles manager Ray Miller sat him down for disciplinary reasons.

Hargrove told Belle of the decision when the slumping slugger arrived yesterday morning. Hargrove said he's been considering resting Belle for the past week.

"Albert works as hard as anyone I've ever seen at his hitting," Hargrove said. "It's not due to lack of preparation (that he's slumping). Albert's a little overanxious right now. He's trying to make things happen too early in the count. All hitters have a better chance to be better hitters the deeper in the count they can get."

The manager said that Belle has been hampered since the team traded Mike Bordick, B.J. Surhoff, Will Clark and Charles Johnson.

ORIOLE NOTES

The departures of those established hitters has made it easier for opponents to pitch around Belle.

"People are a lot less likely to pitch to him, which is what we've seen," Hargrove said. "That's not taking anything away from the people hitting around him. But it's difficult to protect Albert in the lineup right now."

Belle has also been hampered by a sore hip, but Hargrove declined to blame the right fielder's recent problems on the injury.

"It's definitely there," Hargrove said. "It's one of those things he plays with. I don't think it affects him that greatly."

RIPKEN PREPARES: Cal Ripken will be reactivated from the dis-

abled list on Friday. He reemphasized yesterday that he's playing it safe in order to make sure he can play again next year.

"I need to assess by the end of September my physical health, knowing that I missed a period of time, and I can't jump right back in," Ripken said.

"There's some question about how things will go."

Ripken has been on the disabled list since June 28 because of inflammation in his lower back.

When the rosters expand from 25 to 40 players on Friday, the Orioles will have added flexibility to allow Ripken to play parts of some games.

"The idea for now is to prepare for next year, and the questions are surrounding me as well," Ripken said. "I was pushing really hard to try and get back as soon as possible,

and I did have a few minor setbacks along the way."

Ripken is unsigned for next year, and says he's not concerned that the Orioles have yet to approach about a contract for next year.

"Those things have a way of working themselves out," he said. "The question I need to have answered, and I'm sure the club would like to have answered as well is: What is your physical status? Those factors go into consideration before any kind of contract status. I think I've answered some questions, at least to myself about my skill level."

"I can still hit a 98 mph fastball. I can still react on a ball hit down to third base about 1000 mph. I can still can make the plays. I can still execute."

ORIOLES

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"I didn't know what they were expecting from me," Spurgeon said. "I went out there trying to give them whatever I could. I wasn't surprised. I was pleasantly glad that it went that long. I was glad I was efficient enough to go that long."

"He threw a lot of good pitches, some good balls in on some tough left-hand hitters, a nice backdoor slider and a good sinker," Hargrove said. "He was very composed out there. Thinking back on his outing, I can't think of many pitches he threw today."

Spurgeon (1-0) was recalled from Rochester on Aug. 14. Just six weeks before, he was pitching for Frederick in Class A. He was promoted to Bowie on July 5, went there, and made two starts for Rochester, winning both. Since being promoted to the Orioles, he has appeared twice in relief.

Spurgeon is now a combined 14-3 with four different levels.

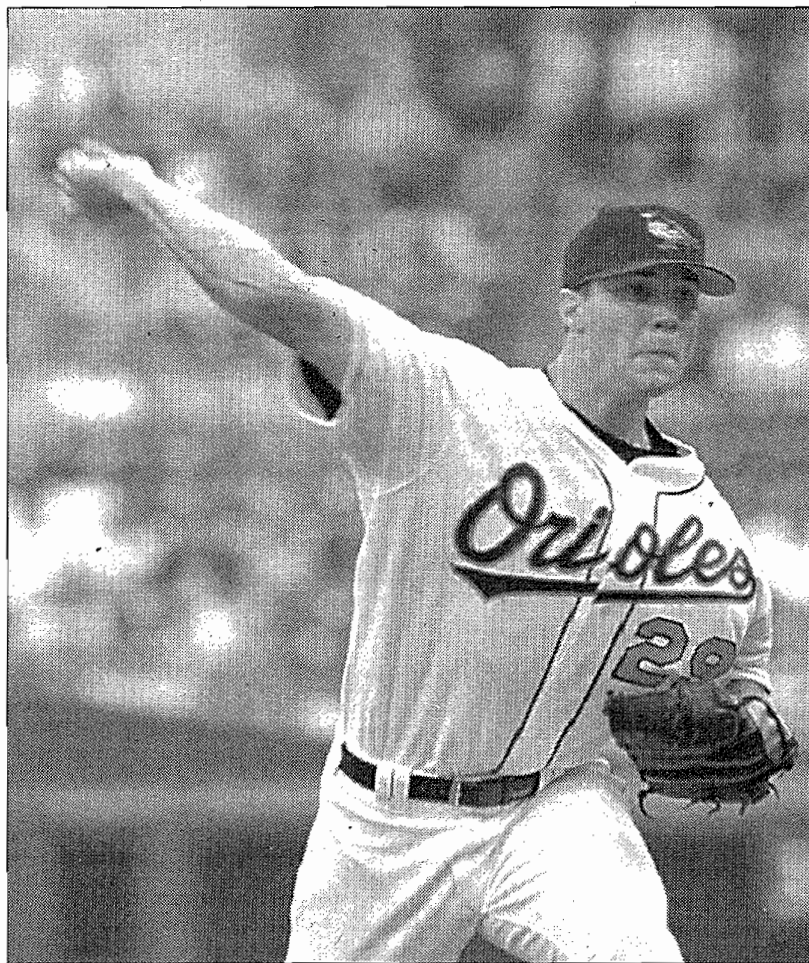
"He's very inquisitive," Hargrove said. "You like to see that in a young kid who's had some success this year. He still wants to learn how to do it better."

Yesterday, Spurgeon had a rather mild assortment of players behind him. For the first time since he came to Baltimore, Albert Belle did not play a home game. It was the second time in two years that he has been held out, the first time at Oriole Park.

Brady Anderson played right field in Belle's place, and Mike Hargrove, who left the Orioles after yesterday's game to join the U.S. Olympic Team, was the designated hitter.

Spurgeon's only bad pitch, according to Hargrove, was one he threw in the second that Aubrey Huff hit for a two-run homer. The 33-foot blast to center was Huff's first of the season.

Spurgeon got help from double plays by the Orioles in the third, fifth and sixth innings. In his sevenning outing, Spurgeon allowed



AP photo

Jay Spurgeon made his first major-league start yesterday, allowing just two earned runs over seven innings in the Orioles' 3-2 victory over the Devil Rays.

Martinez leads Baysox

BOWIE (AP) — Eddy Martinez collected three hits and four runs batted in, leading the Bowie Baysox to a 12-6 victory over the Erie SeaWolves yesterday.

The win completed a three-game sweep for the Baysox.

Martinez gave Bowie a 3-1 lead in the second inning with a bases-loaded triple, then scored on a single to center by Darrell Dent. Rick Short capped the six-run inning with a two-run single to right field off Ryan Cummings (4-9).

Martinez added an RBI single in the fifth, giving Bowie a 7-1 lead, which eventually grew to 11-1.

Erie climbed back in the ball game on four late-inning home runs. In the seventh, Spurgeon allowed

MINOR LEAGUES

of the inning.

WARTHOGS 6, KEYS 5: Danny Sandoval singled to left field in the top of the 13th inning to score Jon Acevas as the Winston-Salem Warthogs beat the Frederick Keys 6-5 yesterday.

The Warthogs fended off a furious Keys comeback in the bottom of the ninth inning, when they scored four runs to tie the score 5-5 and put the game in extra innings. Keith Reed led the charge in the ninth with a three-run homer down the left-field line.

Terrell Merriman led the Warthogs on offense with a two run

RACE

(Continued from Page D1)

closed in June.

The Annapolis Striders run, which had about 4,000 registered runners last year, bumped up that total by more than 1,000 this time around.

To prepare for the increased field, the Striders gathered 100 more volunteers to line the streets and man the water stations. The group also requested more help from the city and the Naval Academy for the event.

This year's race had 5,056 registered runners, 3,045 men and 2,011 women, from 31 states and three foreign countries. The largest age group (35 to 39), had 1,000 runners registered.

As to whether the 5,000 registration standard will be used again next year, Bowman said that hasn't been decided yet.

"If it goes as well as today went, I think we could handle it," Bowman said.

Complete race results are available on the Striders' Web site, www.annapolisstriders.org.

RACE RESULTS

Annapolis 10-Mile Run (Aug. 27, 2000) (4,100 finishers)

Male (overall): 1, David Brendle, 55:14.9; 2, David Mead, 55:37.1; 3, Dusty Lieb, 3, 55:57.0.

Female (overall): 1, Jill Hargis, 1:01:26; 2, Connie Buckwalter, 1:01:49; 3, Patty Fulton, 1:01:54.

Male (masters): 1, Anthony Basile, 56:06.

Female (masters): 1, Pat Wilkerson, 1:08:58.

Male (1-19): 1, Victor Thillet, 59:36; 2, Stephen Weller, 1:02:02; 3, Charles Chitwood, 1:06:43.

Female (1-19): 1, Jenny Hasty, 1:14:25; 2, Jennifer Stein, 1:16:46; 3, Erin Kolarik, 1:18:18.

Male (20-24): 1, Matt Green, 1:00:26; 2, A. Schwartzbard, 1:01:11; 3, Allan

Phillips, 1:10:01.

Female (20-24): 1, Kara Cristaldi, 1:13:55; 2, Katherine Kortenkamp, 1:14:25; 3, Laurie Cicero, 1:14:35.

Male (25-29): 1, Kenneth Lowden, 59:41; 2, Aaron Church, 1:02:15; 3, Tommy Meek, 1:02:23.

Female (25-29): 1, Lisah Hamilton, 1:02:26; 2, Sharon Servidio, 1:05:17; 3, Jill Winkley, 1:06:22.

Male (30-34): 1, Rick Kern, 57:05; 2, Stephen Kortenkamp, 1:00:01; 3, Art Drisko, 1:01:06.

Female (30-34): 1, Jacquie Merritt, 1:02:04; 2, Jennifer Janis, 1:03:44; 3, Cecily Tynan, 1:05:55.

Male (35-39): 1, Ted Poulos, 57:43; 2, Mike Precopio, 1:00:19; 3, Steve Egolf, 1:01:00.

Female (35-39): 1, Chris Morganti, 1:02:16; 2, Kim Robinson, 1:03:42; 3, Jeanne Grillo, 1:05:08.

Male (40-44): 1, Mark Rosasco, 1:01:39; 2, Wilhelm Anderson, 1:03:06; 3, Robert Curci, 1:03:45.

Female (40-44): 1, Joan Fowler, 1:08:56; 2, Leslie Varrelman, 1:09:11; 3, Karen Miller, 1:09:18.

Male (45-49): 1, Chuck Moeser, 56:47; 2, Eden Scott, 1:01:11; 3, William Moore, 1:01:16.

Female (45-49): 1, Karen Erb, 1:12:18; 2, Janet Kronos, 1:15:47; 3, Carla Pastore, 1:16:02.

Male (50-54): 1, Reuben Beauchamp, 1:00:42; 2, Michael Hurley, 1:04:15; 3, Dennis Muhlenforth, 1:05:37.

Female (50-54): 1, Deborah Gebhardt, 1:17:37; 2, Jane Godfrey, 1:20:52; 3, Lucia Davidson, 1:21:05.

Male (55-59): 1, Piriya Pinit, 1:04:53; 2, John Kirkpatrick, 1:05:13; 3, John Pitarra 1:08:03.

Female (55-59): 1, Ellie Thayer, 1:23:27; 2, Mary Lindsay, 1:24:27; 3, Judith Gilbert, 1:26:17.

Male (60-64): 1, Anthony Cerminoaro, 1:06:29; 2, Dick Hipp, 1:15:07; 3, Stan Neumann, 1:15:23.

Female (60-64): 1, Marie Killeen, 1:28:49; 2, Kathleen Guerrieri, 1:43:42; 3, Maria-Magda Tomaszewski, 1:54:04.

Male (65-69): 1, George Yannakakis, 1:15:58; 2, Don Singer, 1:20:21; 3, Ercolini Gresia, 1:23:22.

Female (65-69): 1, Nancy Berlett, 1:59:31.

Male (70-99): 1, Pat Nutt, 1:23:54; 2, Bill Morrison, 1:31:22; 3, Ben Moore, 1:59:13.

Female (70-99): 1, Hedy Marque, 1:57:44.

OPEN

two weeks later, losing to Kiefer in the quarterfinals at Washington, and fell to Carlos Moya in a tuneup last week.