

TIGERS

Detroit picks up reliever Sewald

Team bolsters bullpen with Cleveland trade before deadline; Montero acquired

By Chris McCosky
The Detroit News

DETROIT » There is a method to this madness.

The Tigers’ priority for this trade deadline was to strengthen their bullpen, specifically in terms of adding pitchers with some swing-and-miss stuff in their arsenal. There was no mandate that it come in one, big, splashy and expensive trade package.

The Tigers under the stewardship of president Scott Harris have lived quite well working around the margins and finding useful value in smaller, forward-thinking deals.

On Wednesday night, they acquired

veteran right-hander Rafael Montero, who with a newly-added splitter, has a 32% chase rate and a 29% whiff rate.

And on Thursday morning, with the trade deadline still some eight hours away, they acquired veteran right-hander Paul Sewald, who has posted a 30% whiff rate over the last three seasons. His sweeper, in limited action this year, has a 37% whiff rate.

Montero is 34, Sewald 35. Both are essentially rentals, though Sewald brings a \$7 million mutual option for 2026. Both have pitched in leverage situations in the World Series, Montero helping the Astros win a ring in 2022 and Sewald helping the Diamondbacks win the National League

pennant in 2023 before losing to Texas in the World Series.

Both, obviously, come with some warts. Montero’s 13.9% walk rate is untenable. The Tigers pitching department has had a lot of success helping pitchers find their way back into the strike zone, be it through mechanical tweaks or mental adjustments.

They are presently working to do the same with veteran right-hander Luke Jackson, who pitched two scoreless innings on Tuesday, 22 pitches, 16 strikes. Development happens at the big-league level, even for veterans.



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Cleveland Guardians relief pitcher Paul Sewald throws during the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals on March 27 in Kansas City, Mo.

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GOLF

GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

Once a standout figure skater, Rochester’s Grace Wang preps for USGA Championship debut

By Bryan Everson
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It’s been all business for Grace Wang this summer, but the Rochester native has been conducting as much of it in an office setting as she has on the links.

After completing her second year on the women’s golf team at University of Michigan, Wang, a business major, interned for Nike subsidiary Converse this summer as part of its CRM (customer relationship management) team.

“I’m really trying to use these summers to gather as much business intel as I can,” Wang said. “Wherever I can learn, that’s what I’m trying to do. It was extraordinary. I got to learn so much (and) launch a project that’s currently active for Converse, so it felt pretty rewarding seeing that.”

Wang was sad she had to leave the internship early, but did so for good reason. She’s got a ticket to fly out Friday morning to Oregon, where she’ll be playing in the 2025 U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort.

She finished one stroke behind Rebecca Skoler (University of Virginia) as runner-up to a qualifier on July 2 at Pine Brook Country Club, located in Weston, a prominent suburb of Boston, leaving the Skoler and Wang as the lone pair to advance out of 45 golfers who were aiming to punch a ticket to the Amateur Championship.

In 2024, Wang had failed to qualify in the event held at U-M Golf Course, though her Wolverines teammate Mara Janess secured a spot last July. “I was telling (Mara) the other day, this whole year I saw the tag (from last year’s tournament on her bag), and every time I saw it, I was so inspired by her going and playing there,” she said. “That was my motivation.”

“I had to take day of work off (for the qualifier this year), but it was worth it. The photographer there has a picture of me reacting to the final score, and I had my hand over my mouth. I was in shock. I think the best way to go into a round is not expecting anything, and that’s what I did.”

Getting sufficient time on the links has been tough, Wang says. Following the 8-to-5, she’ll rush home, get to her car, beat traffic and get in maybe two hours of practice (typically at Granite Links Golf Club, located in a southern suburb of Boston) before the sun sets. “It’s definitely a bigger challenge to balance work and golf,” she said. “Prior to the qualifier, I was definitely a bit nervous, but I walked in with no expectations, took it shot-by-shot, and ended up qualifying. I think the biggest thing was adjusting to hitting on grass. In the city, it’s hard to find places where there’s a grass range — it’s all mats. Because there’s so many people there, I utilized my time to focus a lot on putting and chipping. My hitting was pretty stable, so I tried to do what I needed, focus on those (other) things, and hopefully I improved



JASON SCHMITT — MEDIANEWS GROUP, FILE

Rochester Adams senior Grace Wang finished third overall at the 2022 MHSAA Division 1 girls golf finals to lead the Highlanders to their first-ever state title in golf. Wang, now entering her third season on the team at University of Michigan, is gearing up to participate in the U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship, which begins on Monday.

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GOLF

LIV team championship coming to Plymouth

Tourney set for Aug. 22-24 at The Cardinal

By Tony Paul
The Detroit News

LIV Golf is preparing to come to Michigan for the first time.

And with it comes a format that’s unlike anything we’ve seen around here, despite the state’s century-plus history of hosting some of the greatest golf tournaments and all of the greats of the game.

The LIV Golf team championship is set for Aug. 22-24 at The Cardinal at Saint John’s in Plymouth Township. And while all of the league’s 54 golfers will compete throughout the week, they won’t be playing for themselves, but rather the 13 teams. That, the team component, is the biggest difference between LIV Golf and the traditional PGA Tour.

“I’m for it being more team than individual,” Louis Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open champion, told Detroit reporters on a conference call Wednesday. “That’s how we’re going to stand out.”

“I do feel the future of LIV is more team than individual.”

Said Cam Smith, who won the 2022 British Open, shortly before defecting to LIV Golf: “I would sec-

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MORE MLB TRADES

Suárez heads to Mariners, Durán to Philadelphia

The Associated Press

The Seattle Mariners acquired slugger Eugenio Suárez, the Philadelphia Phillies dealt for hard-throwing reliever Jhoan Durán and identical twin relievers Tyler and Taylor Rogers got traded on the same day, capping a busy Wednesday as the Major League Baseball trade deadline approaches on Thursday.

Suárez — who had 36 homers and 87 RBIs this season for the Arizona Diamondbacks — was widely considered one of the top prizes of the trade deadline. A person familiar with the transaction confirmed it to The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because it had not been announced.

The 34-year-old Suárez spent the 2022 and 2023 seasons with the Mariners, hitting 53 homers.

The 27-year-old Durán has a 2.01 ERA and 16 saves this season, striking out 53 over 49 1/3 innings for the Minnesota Twins. The Phillies gave up two top prospects, catcher Eduardo Tait and right-hander Mick Abel.

Tyler Rogers and Ryan Helsley are headed to the New York Mets, who are fighting for first place in the NL East with the Phillies. The accomplished relievers join Edwin Díaz in the bullpen to give the Mets multiple late-inning options.

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