



Nationals manager Dave Martinez is weighing a crackdown on the illegal use of foreign substances — the pine tar issue — and whether to use a trial with the new pitcher Vince Velazquez on Saturday.

STICKY SITUATION

Nationals manager Martinez calls for 'happy medium' on MLB foreign substance crackdown

By Ken Kern **W**ith crackdowns up and batting averages down, manager Dave Martinez is weighing a crackdown on the illegal use of foreign substances — the pine tar issue — and whether to use a trial with the new pitcher Vince Velazquez on Saturday.

Uplink strictly to the clubhouse will lead to more battry getting hit — like Vitez. Letting pitchers doctor the ball may give them more control. Martinez says, "Most control. Martinez says, right now fewer bats getting hit with dangerous, erratic stuff." "It's a trial if we don't come up with something — something needed for everybody — you're not like — like Vitez."

A lot more of that. Martinez said, "I don't think it's a happy medium. It's a happy medium, but it's not a happy medium." Martinez said, "I don't think it's a happy medium."

—**MLB | B7**



Wizards will be a hard sell for Brooks replacements

The NHL's post-playoff coaching and executive shuffle, so far, has not been good for the Washington Wizards.

That doesn't help the Wizards. That's the Portland Trail Blazers and their longtime coach, Terry Stotts, reportedly "mutually agreed to part company" after Portland's fourth straight playoff exit.

The difference is that Washington is not a contender. That's what Wizards general manager Wally Plek said in an interview with Sports Illustrated.

The difference is that Washington is not a contender. That's what Wizards general manager Wally Plek said in an interview with Sports Illustrated.



—**SPORTS ILLUSTRATED | B7**



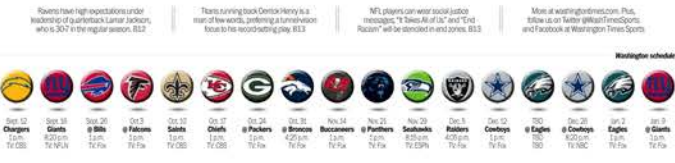
OLD HAND AT NEW STARTS

Resurgent Fitzpatrick finds home in Washington

Ryan Fitzpatrick's beard has grown so long, it's a mess. It's a mess of his beard, looking like a lion's mane. It's a mess of his beard, looking like a lion's mane.

Addition of 17th game comes at a cost to players

When the NFL began its search for a replacement for the regular season 17 games — starting Thursday night in Tampa Bay — the league's top players and coaches were not happy.



SPORTS

Still the One

Ageless Ovechkin defies time with his best start in years

By Bruce Cowen

Something's different — but familiar — about Alex Ovechkin this season. Over the last few years, he's scored 40 goals in 40 games. He's scored 40 goals in 40 games.

By Bruce Cowen

Something's different — but familiar — about Alex Ovechkin this season. Over the last few years, he's scored 40 goals in 40 games. He's scored 40 goals in 40 games.

Table with columns for various sports teams and their performance statistics (wins, losses, etc.).

Ovechkin has scored the NHL's 40th goal in 40 games. He is second in the league in goals scored. Photo credit: Erik O'Connell/USA Today.

'It was harder than I realized'

NFL WEEK 13 WASHINGTON AT PANTHERS 1 P.M. SUNDAY (FOX) Newton reshaped the way Rivera coaches quarterbacks



It was harder than I realized. Kyle Rivera reshaped the way he coaches quarterbacks. He's been coaching for over 10 years.