

GOLF

SATURDAY

3:00 p.m. 11 PGA Tour Golf RBC Heritage, Third Round. From Harbour Town Golf Links, in Hilton Head, S.C. Live

SUNDAY

3:00 p.m. 11 PGA Tour Golf RBC Heritage, Final Round. From Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, S.C. Live

GYMNASTICS

FRIDAY

1:00 p.m. ESPN2 Women's College Gymnastics NCAA Championships, First Semifinal. From St. Louis. Live

HOCKEY

SATURDAY

3:00 p.m. 5 10 NHL Hockey Conference Quarterfinal: Teams TBA. Live
8:00 p.m. 5 10 NHL Hockey Conference Quarterfinal: Teams TBA. Live

SUNDAY

3:00 p.m. 5 10 NHL Hockey Conference Quarterfinal: Teams TBA. Live

MARTIAL ARTS

SATURDAY

6:00 p.m. 39 UFC Fight Night: Poirier vs. Gaethje - Prelims Tim Boetsch vs. Antonio Carlos Junior, middle-weight bout. From Glendale, Ariz. Live

8:00 p.m. 39 UFC Fight Night: Poirier vs. Gaethje Carlos Condit vs. Matt Brown; Dustin Poirier vs. Justin Gaethje. From Glendale, Ariz. Live

RODEO

SUNDAY

2:00 p.m. 11 PBR Bull Riding Tacoma Invitational 15/15 Bucking Battle. From Tacoma, Washington. Taped

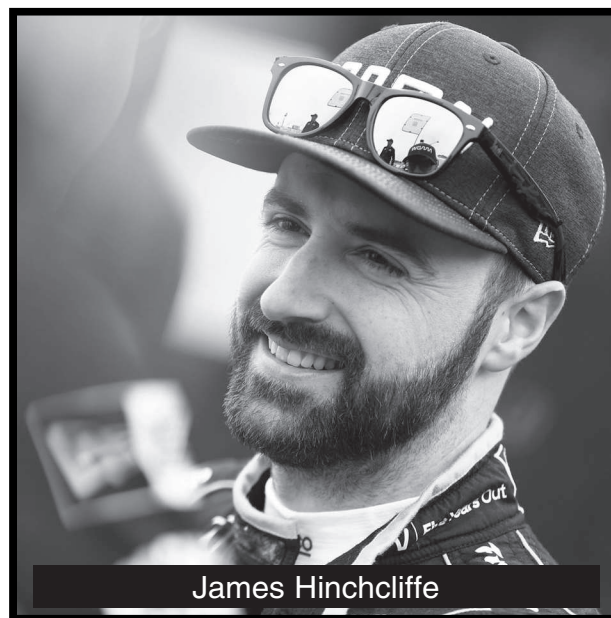
SOCCER

SATURDAY

12:30 p.m. 5 10 Premier League Soccer Teams TBA. Live
3:30 p.m. LIFE NWSL Soccer Chicago Red Stars at Utah Royals. From Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy, Utah. Live

SUNDAY

4:00 p.m. ESPN MLS Soccer Seattle Sounders FC at Sporting Kansas City. From Children's Mercy Park in Kansas City, Kan. Live



James Hinchcliffe

SOFTBALL

SATURDAY

1:00 p.m. ESPN2 College Softball LSU at Tennessee. From Sherri Parker Lee Stadium in Knoxville, Tenn. Live
3:00 p.m. ESPN2 College Softball Kentucky at Texas A&M. From Aggie Softball Complex in College Station, Texas. Live

5:00 p.m. FSSE College Softball Baylor at Oklahoma State. From Cowgirl Stadium in Stillwater, Okla. Live

SUNDAY

7:00 p.m. ESPN2 College Softball Mississippi State at Mississippi. From Ole Miss Softball Complex in Oxford, Miss. Live

playerprofile

BY DAN LADD



Springer, 'Stros, defend World Series title

If the Houston Astros were to repeat as World Series Champions, they would be the first team to do so since the New York Yankees won three straight titles from 1998-2000. Those who like Houston's chances point out that the team is loaded with young talent, including 2017 World Series MVP George Springer. The young outfielder and the Astros wrap up a weekend series with AL West rival the Texas Rangers, Sunday, April 15 on ESPN.

Springer lit up the skies during the Astros seven-game World Series victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers. After being stifled by the Yankees in the ALCS, he rebounded in the Fall Classic batting .379, with 11 hits. Five of those were home runs, tying him with Reggie Jackson and Chase Utley for the record for the most homers in a World Series. Springer's four home runs in the final four games are also a World Series record, as are his total bases (29) and extra base hits (five homers, three doubles).

Naming Springer World Series MVP was a no-brainer, but what might be the most ironic fact about last year's World Series was that Springer was on the cover of a June 2014 issue of Sports Illustrated that predicted an Astros title in 2017. It seemed pretty far-fetched at the time, as the Astros were rebuilding and losing a lot of games. If Springer and the rest of the Astros put up big numbers again this year, especially in the win column, SI can run the same cover and just change the date.

FULL NAME: George Chelston Springer III
BORN: Sept. 19, 1989
BIRTHPLACE: New Britain, Connecticut
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6 foot 2 inches/180 pounds
TEAM: Houston Astros (2014-present)

POSITION: Outfield
BATS/THROWS: R/R
NO.: 4
HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS: World Series champion and MVP, 2017; All-Star, 2017; Silver Slugger Award, 2017

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