Former Mariner strikes out 11 Rays in Game 5 victory

By FRED GOODALL
Associated Press writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. - Cliff Lee added another impressive line to his growing October resume, carrying the Texas Rangers into their first AL championship-series series.

Lee tossed another postseason gem and Texas won a playoff series for the first time, beating the Tampa Bay Rays 5-3 Tuesday night in a decisive Game 5 at the tops of some during baserun-
ning. Lee struck out 11 in a six-hit-
ner for his second win over Rays ace David Price in a series in which the road team won every game - a first in major league history.

"It was a lot of fun, I know that much," said Lee. "We had our back against the wall today and we came out and performed." The Rangers will host the wild-card New York Yankees in the opener of the Best-of-seven ALCS on Friday night. Texas' three previous playoff appearances ended with first-round losses to the Yankees, in 1996, 1998 and 1999.

The teams split eight games during the regular season, including Texas' three-game sweep at home in September.

"They're a great team and that's why they are where they are," Lee said. "They're going to be a good challenge, just like these guys.

Ian Kinsler hit a two-run hom-
er in the ninth inning for Texas, which had been the only active major league franchise that hadn't won a playoff series.

Lee improved to 6-0 with a 1.44 ERA and three complete games in seven career postseason starts, striking out 54 and walking six in 56 1-3 innings.

ALCS, Page B1

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Hudson's Bay football player Cody Torgimson has thrived in life and school despite losing both of his parents at a young age.

LONE EAGLE SOARS

Hudson's Bay senior succeeds and endures amid difficult youth

By PAUL VALENCE
Colombia staff writer

Cody Torgimson's story suggests he should have fallen through the cracks of society's foundation, into the abyss of a destructive environment.

He could have been just another statistic: by another, another lost soul, a victim to a shadow of tragedies that defines his young life.

"I got down sometimes. I feel like I have the right to sometimes," said Torgimson, a senior at Hudson's Bay. "But it doesn't help when you look at it as a 'Poor me, poor me.'

You have to change your perspective on things. People don't like to hear that things will get better with time, but it's true.

While death and rejection surrounded his upbringing, Torgimson is now thriving, determined to honor the father who died when Cody was 6 years old. He expresses love for his grandparents, who died a few years later.

He is intent on making a positive impact to show gratitude toward all of those who have helped him endure.

And he wants to excel in order to prove to his late mother that she was wrong to abandon him when he was a toddler.

Through his studies at Hudson's Bay and as a Running Start student at Clark College, his job at a retirement center, and even through competition on the football field, Torgimson is making good on all of his promise.

"I try to show my appreciation through my work," Torgimson said.

"No one is pushing him to do all this," said Royce Kanaea, a student advocate at Hudson's Bay. "It's all inner-self. He pushes himself, and that's amazing."

Kanaea works with students who are at risk of failing in the classroom - which means he has never officially worked with Torgimson "because his grades are so good."

But they met in the hallway one day as Kanaea tried to convince Torgimson to EAGLE, Page B6

Football provided Torgimson with "a place to vent" from his life's troubles. It also provided him with fatherly figures for support.

Union golf team captures 4A district championship

Lake Joie (from right), Darrion Wilson and Mountain Cusah had six play-
ners make the cut at Districts.

The Titans had five golfers make the cut for district, including Lake Up.

Report: Leaf took money from agent at WSU

Fort graduate Clardige also mentioned in report

From news and staff reports

NEW YORK - A former sports agent who is now a football player at Washington State University told The Associated Press that LEAF had paid him money while representing him.

In the Oct. 18, 2012, edition, Josh Luchs said he paid more than 20 players from 1990-96, including many who didn't sign with him.

"I paid them, too," said Clardige, a 6-foot-4, 215-pound wide receiver who is not on the roster at Washington State.

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From Page B1

wrestle for the Eagles.

Later, Kaneokea heard Torgrimson's story.

"To be around that much death at that young of an age is remarkable," Kaneokea said. "I was just impressed with the way he handled himself and the way he dealt with everything."

Torgrimson's parents broke up when he was a toddler. He lived full-time with his father, Bob Torgrimson, in Lewiston, Maine. When Cody was 6, he found his father on the ground "in a heap" with a broken neck. His father had fallen out of a tree during a family hunting trip and died that day.

Cody moved in with his grandparents because his mother wanted little to do with him.

"I've never had a great feeling for my mom. I have resentment for her," Torgrimson said. "She chose drugs and alcohol over me. That's how I feel about it."

He remembers seeing his mom one day in Lewiston.

"I said hi. She didn't know who I was until I said, 'Mom,'" Torgrimson recalled.

She did make it to his 8th birthday party. It was the last time he would see her. Three years later, his mom was murdered.

Torgrimson lived with his grandparents until he was 10, when his grandmother was diagnosed with cancer. His grandfather, who was disabled, could not take care of a young boy and a grandson.

That's when Cody's cousin, Lance Eppers, and his wife, Brittney, took him in to their home in Vancouver. A year later, a few months after his mom had died, his grandmother was gone.

There are moments that can affect the rest of our lives. It was during this period when Cody Torgrimson was most vulnerable to taking the easy way out. It's easy to fall off the path. It's easy to find trouble."

"I started down the wrong road. I'm not going to lie," Cody said. "Grandma and Grandpa were easily fooled. Got any homework? No. On the edge of succeeding or failing, Lance and Brittney kind of whipped me into shape."

"They kept me on the right path instead of the wrong path," Torgrimson added.

At first, they motivated Cody with a money-for-good-grades program. It worked.

But as he grew older, he quit caring so much about the reward and started doing it for himself and doing it for all the people that I've lost and all the people who are still here," he said.

Yet within any family, there can be issues. When Torgrimson turned 18, he made another big decision. He left his cousin's home "on good terms" and moved in with the family of his best friend, Andrew Mortensen.

"Cody's always been a real special kid," said Andrew's mom, Noel Carr. "I didn't even have to think about it."

"Cody said he tries to help out with groceries, but Carr just wants him to enjoy his senior year," Carr adds.

"I wanted to give him a place where he could be a kid, finish up high school and become the amazing man he's going to be," she said. "I feel we're the lucky ones because he chose us."

Now, instead of two boys in her house, she has three teenagers, Andrew is 17, and Nathan Mortensen is 16. "He's just part of the crazy family we have here," Cody says. "Cody keeps them in line," she said with a laugh. "He's the enforcer."

The Eagles are struggling this season, but the coaches say Torgrimson's work ethic and leadership are important, especially to the younger players who hope to one day turn the program into a winner.

"He's got a positive attitude — that's one of the best things about Torgrimson. He's a good kid who is always positive," Carr said.

"It's a lot of kids who are being good, they need someone to talk to," Torgrimson said. "We just want to vent their frustrations."

Kaneokea said Torgrimson would be perfect in that service. "He's lived it. You can read books and learn, but he's lived it," Kaneokea said.

"Many of us, children and adults, could learn a lot from Cody," she said.

"Sports has taken up so much of my time. It has given me no time to get into bad things," he said.

"Torgrimson's typical schedule this fall is school from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., then football practice until 6 p.m. He works Saturdays and Sundays as a server at a retirement community.

"He's got a 3.4 grade-point average, which includes the more difficult college courses. He hopes to be a marine biologist or a conservation biologist.

"Making other people happy is my biggest thing," Torgrimson said. "I really want people to be happy."