

Red Sox avoid sweep with 10-inning win

BY MIKE SHALIN
THE SPORTS XCHANGE

BOSTON — Craig Kimbrel pitched out of a bases-loaded, nobody-out jam in the top of the 10th inning and Xander Bogaerts singled home the winner in the bottom half as the Boston Red Sox averted a four-game sweep with a wild 8-7 win over the Chicago White Sox on Thursday afternoon.

MAJOR LEAGUES

The White Sox were gunning for their first four-game sweep at Fenway Park since 1927 and handed the game away both offensively and defensively.

After Kimbrel (1-3) performed his magic act, striking out the last two hitters, Marco Hernandez led off the bottom of the 10th with a walk against Matt Purke (0-1) and was forced at second by Mookie Betts. Dustin Pedroia worked a 3-2 walk and Bogaerts ended the game by dropping his fourth career walk-off hit into short right-center field.

Jose Abreu cracked a three-run homer to give the White Sox a 7-5 lead in the seventh, but the Red Sox scored single runs in the seventh, eighth and 10th to escape with a win before heading out on the road.

It was only the third two-inning effort of Kimbrel's career, the first since April 21, 2011, and the win was his first in four decisions with his new team.

The White Sox also had the bases loaded and nobody out in the eighth and didn't score against Heath Hem-bree.

The Red Sox had first and second with nobody out in the ninth against David Robertson, who then struck out two of the next three hitters to escape.

The White Sox tried to gift-wrap the game, allowing Boston to score five runs in the sixth and seventh innings despite having one hit reach the outfield.

Chicago starter James Shields, coming off four dreadful outings, pitched into the sixth inning and left with a 4-1 lead that the White Sox blew with shaky relief pitching and even shakier defense.

Key throwing errors by Brett Lawrie and Todd Frazier helped the Boston cause. After the Abreu homer, pinch-hitter Travis Shaw, who didn't start because of a shin contusion, delivered a long sacrifice fly in the seventh and Pedroia tied it with an RBI single in the eighth.

Rick Porcello started for the Red Sox, but for the fifth time in his last six starts didn't get a decision. He allowed four runs in 5½ innings.

Red Sox left fielder Chris Young was helped off the field in the second inning with a right hamstring injury suffered while rounding first base.

Young, the regular left fielder with both Brock Holt



GREG M. COOPER | USA TODAY

Boston Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts smiles after hitting a single to drive in the winning run during the 10th inning against the Chicago White Sox at Fenway Park on Thursday. Boston won 8-7.

and Blake Swihart on the disabled list, lined a single off the left-field wall against Shields. Young was able to make his way back to first base and then set on the field with his right leg stretched up in front of him. He was helped off the field by manager John Farrell and athletic trainer Brad Pearson.

NOTES: Red Sox 3B Travis Shaw was out of the line-

up with a right shin contusion but pinch hit in the seventh inning and stayed in the game to play left field. He had played in 126 straight games, the longest Red Sox streak since Dustin Pedroia played in 148 in a row in 2011-12. ... Boston C Ryan Hanigan (neck) was set to begin a rehab assignment at Triple-A Pawtucket on Thursday night, working

first as a DH only until he's ready to catch. ... LHP Carlos Rodon, 2-6 but 2-2 in his last four starts, opens the White Sox's three-game home series against the Toronto Blue Jays on Friday night as Chicago begins a stretch of 12 of 15 games at home. ... LHP David Price, who has had less success pitching in Arlington than anywhere else, opens the

Red Sox's three-game series against the Rangers on Friday. He is 3-2 with a stadium-worst 6.54 ERA in the regular season there and 4-7 overall against the Rangers counting postseason play. ... 3B Todd Frazier's 21st home run of the year on Wednesday set a White Sox record for homers by a third baseman before the All-Star break.

James declines spot on Olympic team

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James has declined a spot on the United States team for the 2016 Summer Olympics at Rio de Janeiro.

James' agent, Rich Paul, reportedly informed Team USA's Jerry Colangelo on Thursday.

"I could use the rest," James told cleveland.com.

James just finished leading the Cavaliers to the NBA title on Sunday. Cleveland won the final three games of the seven-game series.

It also marked the sixth straight season in which James played in the NBA Finals, meaning his seasons typically stretch into mid-June.

James played in three previous Olympics and is Team USA's all-time leading

scorer with 273 points.

Meanwhile, Carmelo Anthony and Jimmy Butler are among the latest players who have committed to playing for Team USA.

Anthony, the New York Knicks forward, will be on the 12-man squad for a fourth time. Butler, a guard for the Chicago Bulls, would be playing in his first Olympics.

Also giving commitments to play are the Toronto Raptors backcourt of DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry and Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan.

Also, Portland point guard Damian Lillard (foot) won't be part of the team



James

due to injury and San Antonio forward Kawhi Leonard withdrew his name in a team news release.

"This was a very difficult decision. It's an honor to have been considered for the team and I hope that in the future I will have the chance to represent my country by playing for USA Basketball," Leonard said.

Anthony had considered not participating due to concerns over the Zika virus, which has created major health risks in Brazil.

Jordan reportedly landed a roster spot because Detroit center Andre Drummond has decided not to play.

Other players who have committed to playing include Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant, Indiana forward Paul George, Sacramento center DeMarcus Cousins and two Golden

State Warriors — forward Draymond Green and guard Klay Thompson.

One player who hasn't reached a decision is Cleveland Cavaliers point guard Kyrie Irving.

The team's training camp will run July 18-21 in Las Vegas. Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski is the coach, and Olympic basketball competition will be held Aug. 6-21.

Players who previously withdrew include Golden State point guard Stephen Curry, Oklahoma City Thunder point guard Russell Westbrook and Houston Rockets guard James Harden. Out for health reasons are LaMarcus Aldridge (San Antonio Spurs), Anthony Davis (New Orleans Pelicans), Blake Griffin (Los Angeles Clippers), Chris Paul (Clippers) and John Wall (Washington Wizards).

Syndergaard, Cespedes avoid DL stints

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Right-hander Noah Syndergaard and outfielder Yoenis Cespedes are likely to miss only a matter of days after injury scares Wednesday as the New York Mets completed a two-game sweep of the Kansas City Royals.



Syndergaard

Syndergaard's availability for his next scheduled start Monday is in doubt but a clean MRI on his right elbow means he won't land on the disabled list. After the test Wednesday at the Hospital for Special Surgery, Syndergaard prescribed anti-inflammatory medication and has been

cleared to do his normal work routine. The Mets moved his start back from Tuesday to Wednesday after Syndergaard threw 115 pitches in his previous outing.

Cespedes has only a mild sprain of his left wrist and received a cortisone shot. The Mets are likely to hold him out into the weekend.

The Mets could choose the conservative route with Syndergaard, who had his right elbow examined seven weeks ago following a May 1 start. He averaged 97.6 mph on his fastball Wednesday, about 1.4 mph off his previous start.

Cespedes went back to the



Cespedes

dugout in the fifth inning of Wednesday's win with a grimace on his face, clutching the same wrist that bothered him during the 2015 season. Alejandro De Aza replaced Cespedes in Wednesday's game.

Rockies to release Reyes

The Colorado Rockies requested waivers on shortstop Jose Reyes and are expected to grant his unconditional release.

Colorado was aiming to trade the four-time All-Star but found no takers. If Reyes clears waivers, he will become a free agent in 48 hours.

Reyes hasn't played for the Rockies this season after being involved in a domestic-violence incident with his wife in Hawaii last October.

Prosecutors dropped the charge when Reyes' wife refused to cooperate.

Major League Baseball suspended Reyes through May 31 for the incident.

Reyes is owed approximately \$39 million in salary from the six-year, \$106 million deal he signed prior to the 2012 season.

Seattle's Sampson lifted with injury

Seattle starter Adrian Sampson was removed prior to Thursday's game against Detroit before he could throw a single pitch due to an elbow injury.

The Mariners announced Sampson was taken out after feeling "right elbow discomfort" while warming up.

Sampson gave a little hop after throwing his last warmup pitch and catcher Chris Iannetta motioned for manager Scott Servais to come to the mound.

Brewer 4, Skowhegan 3

At Skowhegan, Alex Brooks delivered an RBI double in the seventh inning to lift the Brewer Falcons to a Zone 1 victory over Post 16 of Skowhegan.

Jack Corey and Matt Pushard doubled to produce a run in the fifth and Garrett Hamlin contributed a run-scoring fielder's choice. Jake Gauvin scattered six hits while going the distance for the Falcons.

Losing pitcher Chase Malloy stroked an RBI triple and Adam Turcotte hit a sacrifice fly for Skowhegan.

Brewer 000 111 1 — 4 7 2

Post 16 001 110 0 — 3 6 1

Gauvin and Carmichael, Rogerson (4) and Maxsimic (7); Watt, Holzworth (4), Malloy (6) and Emery

Penquis rallies past Motor City for win

DOVER-FOXCROFT — A squeeze bunt by Penquis' Colin Beckett and an errant throw played Cameron Doak and Chandler Rockwell as Rowell's Penquis Navigators eked out a 6-5 Zone 1 Senior American Legion baseball victory over Motor City of Bangor on Thursday.

LEGION BASEBALL

Doak led off in the bottom of the seventh with a single and Rockwell followed with a double.

Brooks Law pitched six strong innings for Rowell's Penquis Navigators, and Motor City's Parker went six strong as well. Nate Church recorded the final three outs for the Navigators.

Rockwell recorded three hits for Penquis, while Tanner Strout (double)

chipped in two hits.

Law, Church (7) and Beckett; Parker, Jurgiewich (7) and Hanscom

R.H. Foster 6, Acadians 0

At Ellsworth, R.H. Foster of Hampden defeated the Trenton Acadians behind the two-hit pitching of Casey Sudbeck. He struck out three and walked one while throwing only 75 pitches. Conner Farmer sparked the offense with a home run and a single and Jackson Gilmore singled twice.

Hank Vinall stroked two singles to lead Trenton.

R.H. Foster 100 203 0 — 6 7 0

Acadians 000 000 0 — 0 2 4

Sudbeck and Thomas; Simmons, Clark (5) and Chipman