

Price pitches Red Sox to win over Rays

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida — On a night in which David Price dominated for eight innings, a smart defensive switch helped the Boston Red Sox in the eighth.

Rookie Andrew Benintendi, shifted from center to left field that very inning, went over the wall in left field to rob the Tampa Bay Rays' Steven Souza Jr. of a two-run home run, helping Boston pull away to a 6-2 win as Price threw eight shutout innings in a 6-2 win at Tropicana Field on Monday.

“That’s a highlight-reel play at a pivotal time in the game,” Red Sox manager John Farrell said. “In a three-run game, that late, to take away a two-run homer, it’s a huge difference in the ballgame.”

Price (12-8) won at the Trop for the first time as a visitor, taking a one-hitter into the eighth and

striking out eight against his former team. He finished allowing two hits and two walks in his eight innings of work.

The Red Sox (70-54) moved into a first-place tie in the American League East with idle Toronto as Boston gained a share of first place for the first time in more than a month. Meanwhile, the Rays (52-71) cooled off after winning six of their previous seven.

“It was a really strong start by David Price,” Rays manager Kevin Cash said. “Offensively, a pretty quiet night there until the end. Price had good stuff. We probably got some pitches to hit that we just missed.”

Farrell had moved Benintendi to left field to sub for Chris Young, who played well in his first game in two months after returning from the disabled list. When Souza sent a shot to left field, Benintendi went over the short wall down the

left-field line to rob him of what looked like a sure home run.

“We kind of stumbled into it, but one heck of a play by Drew,” Farrell said.

Evan Longoria spoiled the shut-out with a two-run home run, his 29th this season, off reliever Matt Barnes in the ninth inning. The Rays had more hits in the ninth (three) than in eight innings against Price.

Price, the former Rays ace was 0-3 in three previous starts against Tampa Bay at the Trop, but pitched a gem Monday.

Two of Boston’s first three runs came on sacrifice flies, with Benintendi getting one in the fourth and Hanley Ramirez adding another in the seventh. The eighth inning was the Rays’ only real threat, with Tim Beckham leading off the inning with Tampa Bay’s second hit and Souza following with Benintendi’s gem.

“Pretty stunned,” Souza said of the catch. “That was an unbelievable play. He ran a long way, was at full speed and then to go over and hold onto the ball was pretty impressive.”

The Red Sox pulled away in the ninth, with Dustin Pedroia reaching base on a throwing error by reliever Danny Farquhar, who then served up a two-run home run to Xander Bogaerts, his 15th of the season, for a 5-0 lead. Sandy Leon brought in another run with an RBI groundout to score Mookie Betts, who had singled.

Price, seeking his first win as a visitor at Tropicana Field after three losses, retired the first nine batters in order and allowed only one hit in the first five innings.

Logan Forsythe led off the fourth with a single and was thrown out trying to steal second, with a fifth-inning walk as the

Rays’ only other baserunner in the first five innings.

Rays starter Blake Snell struggled with control, walking a season-high five batters and lasting only 3 2/3 innings.

Boston struck for two runs in the fourth, with Ramirez reaching on a walk and Leon following with a single. Chris Young, activated from the disabled list and playing for the first time in two months, came through with an RBI double down the left-field line to score Ramirez for a 1-0 lead.

After another walk to load the bases, Benintendi hit a sacrifice fly to score Leon for a 2-0 lead.

Snell loaded the bases again with another walk, but reliever Erasmo Ramirez came in with two runners on and got a groundout to third from Bogaerts to end the inning. Snell followed with a scoreless fifth.

UM men to play 4 NCAA tourney teams

BY LARRY MAHONEY
BDN STAFF

In addition to a trip to play perennial power Duke University in the renowned **COLLEGE REPORT** Cameron Indoor Stadium, the University of Maine’s men’s basketball team will play six other teams that participated in postseason tournaments a year ago as part of its nonconference schedule released on Tuesday.

Duke reached the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament last season where the Blue Devils lost to Oregon 82-68.

Duke wound up 25-11. UMaine, which was 8-22, will play Duke on Dec. 3.

The other 2015-16 NCAA Tournament teams on UMaine’s schedule will be 24-11 Providence College (Dec.

20 at Providence), 20-15 Buffalo (Dec. 30 at Buffalo) and 15-20 Holy Cross (Dec. 7 at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor).

Virginia Tech (20-15), which went 1-1 in the National Invitation Tournament, will host UMaine on Nov. 11, and 25-10 Columbia, which won the CollegeInsider.com Tournament, will invade Bangor on Jan. 2.

UMaine will travel to play Longwood University of Virginia (10-23) on Nov. 13, Dartmouth (10-18) on Dec. 10 and Brown (8-20) on Dec. 22, and the Black Bears also will play in the Boston University Exempt Tournament on Nov. 19-21 against 19-15 Boston University, which went 1-1 in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament, 18-15 Northeastern and 16-16 Long Island University-Brooklyn.

UMaine will host Central Connecticut State (4-25) on

Nov. 30, Quinnipiac (9-21) on Dec. 18 and Division III the University of Maine at Presque Isle (13-13) on Nov. 26.

UMaine will have a pair of exhibition games against Division III teams Husson University of Bangor (21-7) and the University of Maine at Fort Kent (20-14). UMaine will play Husson on Oct. 29 at the Cross Insurance Center and UMFK at the Memorial Gym in Orono on Nov. 5.

“Our goal with our nonconference schedule is to prepare us to win our league [America East] and the challenges this schedule present should do just that,” UMaine coach Bob Walsh said in a news release.

Maine field hockey team picked 21st in nation

The University of Maine’s field hockey team, which set a school record for wins a year ago with a 19-4 record, has

been picked No. 21 in the pre-season National Field Hockey Coaches Association poll.

The Black Bears will play four teams ranked in the Top 20, including a Sept. 18 home game against the University of North Carolina, the No. 1 team in the poll.

The Tar Heels went 21-3 a year ago and reached the NCAA championship game where they lost to Syracuse 4-2.

Former Messalonskee of Oakland star Kristy Bernatchez is a starting senior back for the Tar Heels.

UMaine also will play a pair of games against America East rival Albany, ranked ninth in the poll, and one against No. 17 Boston University.

UMaine will visit Albany on Oct. 2 and host the Great Danes on Oct. 21. The Black Bears will trek to BU on Sept. 9.

Coutts

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spring with two home runs, 24 runs scored, 14 RBIs and 11 stolen bases despite being walked intentionally 18 times in 18 games.

The 6-foot-3, 230-pound Coutts also has hit third in the batting order during the last two summers for the Maine Lightning, a Portland-based all-star team that travels throughout the Northeast competing in showcase tournaments.

“Obviously Jackson’s going to hit, he’s probably the best pure hitter in the state and I would have said the same thing last year,” said Ryan Copp, head coach of the Maine Lightning 17U Showcase team.

Coutts’ pitching history had been relatively limited until after his fastball was clocked at 87 mph during the annual Maine Underclass Showcase held June 23 at Saint Joseph’s College in Standish.

regular basis,” said Copp. “One coach who was there said, ‘You might have the Babe Ruth of Maine baseball here,’ because he’s a guy who can pitch, he can hit, he’s athletic and can not only do it all, but do it all well.”

Among the college recruiters in attendance for the Boston Invitational performance was URI head coach Raphael Cerrato and assistants Jim Martin and Sean O’Brien.

“At that point it was almost a no-brainer for them,” said Copp. “If his hitting doesn’t work out then you’ve still got a guy who can throw it 90 miles an hour. If it doesn’t work out on the mound, you’ve still got a middle-of-the-lineup bat as a freshman because he’s going to have an opportunity to hit in the top five or six of that lineup as a freshman and I think do very well.”

He subsequently topped out at 89 mph during one of the Lightning’s games at the Boston Invitational showcase in Northborough, Massachusetts, an affirmation of a summer spent consistently throwing in the mid- and upper-80s, which drew the immediate reaction of the college coaches in attendance.

“Being able to throw 90 miles an hour in one of these tournaments is pretty special, you don’t see that on a

While there’s considerable expectation that Coutts will wind up in the URI lineup as a daily contributor early in his career, there’s also the belief that given his lack of a lengthy pitching background there’s plenty of room for growth on the mound.

Coutts hopes his experience as a three-year starting catcher at Orono — he also plays on the Red Riots’ football and basketball teams — will enhance his increasing focus on the art of pitching.

“A lot of things go on behind the dish,” he said, “and if I can translate that to the mound then it will be very beneficial.”

Old Town

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will receive their Hall of Fame plaques.

Akerley was a three-year starter in basketball and softball and helped the 1980 basketball team to an Eastern Maine Class A championship. She was named to the 1980 All-Tourney Team and the Bangor Daily News All-Maine first team after scoring more than 1,000 points in three varsity seasons — without benefit of a 3-point line.

Akerley received a scholarship to play at the University of Maine, but injuries cut her career short after two seasons.

Carlow competed in basketball, baseball and football, and helped lead the 1952 basketball team to the Class LL state championship, the first in school history. For his efforts he was named the tournament MVP and selected to

the Bangor Daily News All-Tourney first team.

Carlow also helped the 1951 basketball team advance to the Eastern Maine final.

In his senior year, Carlow helped the football, basketball and baseball teams compile an overall record of 27-8.

Wilcox was a three-sport athlete for Old Town who excelled in field hockey, in which she was a four-year starter for the Coyotes before taking her talents to UMass Lowell.

She helped lead the River Hawks to four straight national championship games and the team claimed the NCAA Division II title in her sophomore season.

Wilcox was a two-time All-American and named captain her senior season when she also was named the Northeast-10 Conference tournament MVP. She capped off her college career by being named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association North/South Senior All-Star Game.

Springer made a lasting im-

pact on swimming at Old Town, leading the school’s girls team to six straight Class B state championships from 1992 through 1997. No other girls swimming coach in Maine has accomplished that feat, regardless of class.

Springer helped the OT boys swimming team win the 2003 Class B state title.

A former school board member, Springer served as director of the Old Town/Orono YMCA, where he was instrumental in the construction of the swimming pool and field house.

Springer now serves as head coach of the Saddlebrook Swim Club in Arizona.

O’Keefe was a standout athlete in track and field hockey, and continues to hold school track records set two decades ago in the indoor 55-meter high hurdles at 8.6 seconds and the 100-meter high hurdles outdoors at 15.4 seconds.

She continued her success on the track during a four-year career at Colby College.

LeBlanc, who is being hon-

ored posthumously, played basketball and baseball at Old Town, and in 1965 he set what was then a MacKenzie Gymnasium scoring record with 39 points in a game. He was named the basketball team’s MVP that season.

He went on to the University of Maine at Fort Kent and helped the Bengals’ basketball team win its first Northeast College Conference championship. LeBlanc scored more than 1,000 career points and was named to the state’s 1969 college all-star team.

LeBlanc subsequently taught and coached at Van Buren High School, leading the boys basketball team to its first Eastern Maine tournament appearance.

He was inducted to the UMFK Hall of Fame in 2012.

An avid runner, LeBlanc organized the Pen Bay Pacers Running Club in 1982.

For more information on the Hall of Fame, visit facebook.com/oldtownhighschoolhalloffame.com or rsu34.org.

Tape

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The most frequently cited mechanism for effectiveness of Kinesio tape is in circulation improvement and swelling reduction. It is thought that this happens by lifting the skin up and away from the vessels of the body, thus creating an easier environment for blood to flow and swelling to drain.

Another mechanism is through activation of the body’s own pain-relieving mechanisms. Again, this is thought to occur by a similar mechanism as improving circulation. By lifting the skin away from nerve endings, the compression of the skin against the nerves

is reduced, thereby reducing pain.

A third mechanism is improving muscle strength. This occurs via the stretch applied to the tape that creates tension in the skin. In turn, this improves nerve function and communication that results in increased muscle recruitment and ultimately more strength.

Will it work for me?

Well, yes and no.

The first thing we need to do is look at the research that has been accomplished on it. Somewhat to my surprise, there has been a fair amount of investigation into whether Kinesio tape is effective. In fact, there have been so many studies that we can now use a research technique called meta-analysis to combine all the individual studies into one big study.

Brady

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has been successful for me,” Brady said. “I don’t try to change a whole bunch of things up, I try to work hard every day and I try to do what I need to do on the practice field to prepare myself.

“That’s just kind of what the routine is, so we’ll deal with those four weeks when they come. In the meantime, I’m just trying to prepare this week like I would have last

year and the year before, and try to just prepare the best I can so I can be the best quarterback that I can for this team.”

Patriots release RB Brown

The New England Patriots released running back Donald Brown, cornerback E.J. Biggers and defensive lineman Frank Kearse on Tuesday.

Brown was nursing an undisclosed injury for the past few weeks and was unable to work his way into a crowded backfield after signing with New England on March 17.

“He hasn’t been available for a while,” coach Bill Belichick said. “Yeah, it’s unfortunate. He worked hard; he’s a really good kid. We just never really got the chance to see him.”

The 29-year-old Brown has rushed for 2,829 yards and 18 touchdowns and reeled in 120 receptions for 1,066 yards and two scores in 89 games since being selected by Indianapolis with the 27th overall pick of the 2009 draft.

Brown finished with just 229 yards rushing and one touchdown in 10 games with San Diego last season.

Biggers, who was signed as an unrestricted free agent from Philadelphia on March 30, recorded 44 tackles and seven passes defended in 16 games with the Eagles last season. The 29-year-old has played for Tampa Bay, Washington and Philadelphia in his career since being selected with a seventh-round pick in the 2009 draft.

Kearse, 27, has also played for three teams during his career, recording 43 tackles, 5 1/2 sacks and one pass defended in 35 games with Carolina, Dallas and Washington.

Patriots

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physically and being able to play well when the time comes.”

And with the time for the real games quickly approaching, what the Pats trot out Friday night should closely resemble what you see in the season opener in Arizona. With Vollmer’s injury, Cannon can no longer be viewed as a placeholder. He’s the guy, and the left side of Solder and Thuney has been a constant all training camp.

The only two spots where there has been any rotation remain center and right guard. Andrews and Stork are in a tight battle in the former, with Andrews maintaining a slight lead at the moment. With Mason’s injury, Kline is the likely starter at right guard.

“I’ll tell you this, I’ve re-

ally enjoyed the group that we’ve had,” Solder said. “We have had some productive practices. Whoever it is in there, whatever group it is, we should all be on the same page and ready to go.”

Coach Bill Belichick pointed out that while evaluations will be made at every opportunity, since this won’t be a regular-season game, the performances have to be kept in proper perspective.

Still, with all due respect to the Saints and Bears, the Pats offensive line, which is starting to take shape, will know a lot more about itself after Friday night.

“There may have been (growth this preseason),” Solder said, “but we’re never satisfied because we have a long ways to go.”



Belichick