

# Puig staying with LA Dodgers organization

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig will be staying with the organization after being claimed off revocable trade waivers by an unknown MLB team, according to reports Wednesday.

## MLB NOTEBOOK

The unknown team that claimed Puig on Tuesday was more interested in blocking him from going to another team than in trading for him, a league source told ESPN's Jim Bowden.

An unconfirmed Twitter post from baseball analyst Antonio Puesan stated that the Boston Red Sox were the team that claimed Puig.

The Dodgers have three options. They could try to work out a trade with the team that claimed Puig, they could simply let Puig join the claiming team, or they could pull Puig back off waivers and keep him.

The 25-year-old Puig was

sent to Triple-A Oklahoma City on Aug. 2 when the Dodgers could not deal him before the non-waiver trade deadline. He was batting just .260 with seven homers and 34 RBIs in 81 games with the Dodgers this season.

Puig told ESPN's Marly Rivera on Monday that he preferred a trade to another team instead of being demoted to the minors, although he said he gained some humility after joining the Triple-A in Oklahoma City.

"The moment I arrived in L.A., people were crazy for me — 50, 60 thousand people (cheering) at the stadium," Puig said in the interview. "I got used to that amount of fans. Getting to Triple-A and not seeing as many fans is not very appealing or fun to play baseball, but this is what I have to do for my future."

Puig was an All-Star in 2014 after becoming an instant celebrity with the Dodgers. He hit .319 with 19 homers in 104 games in 2013

and hit .296 with 16 homers in 148 games in 2014. His average slipped to .255 with 11 homers in 79 games last season, when he had hamstring problems.

Wednesday is the deadline for teams to acquire players on waivers and still have them become eligible for the postseason roster.

Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman was asked Tuesday if Puig would be added when major league rosters expand on Thursday.

"I don't know the answer to that yet," Friedman said.

Puig has hit .348 with four home runs in his first 19 games with Oklahoma City.

## Indians complete trade for Crisp

The Cleveland Indians acquired outfielder Coco Crisp and cash from the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday in exchange for minor league left-hander Colt Hynes.

The Indians completed the trade for the switch-hit-

ting Crisp after reports of the deal were reported Tuesday night. Crisp was not in the Athletics' starting lineup Tuesday and he left the Oakland clubhouse at Minute Maid Field in Houston about an hour before the start of the game.

Crisp, who will turn 37 in November, has just over \$2 million left on his current contract that paid him \$11 million this year.

Crisp has spent the entire 2016 season on Oakland's active roster, batting .235 with 24 doubles, four triples, 11 home runs and 47 RBIs in 102 games. He has scored 45 runs with seven stolen bases this year.

Crisp is hitting .345 with runners on base and is leading the major leagues with a .424 batting average with runners in scoring position. He has appeared in 58 games in left field and 36 games in center field for the A's.

Crisp owns a career average of .266 with 128 home runs and 631 RBIs across 15

seasons after debuting with the Indians in August 2002.

Crisp spent parts of four seasons with the Indians (2002-05), hitting .287 with 35 homers and 176 RBIs in 415 games finished tied for fifth in the American League with 42 doubles in 2005 prior to being traded to the Boston Red Sox that off-season.

Crisp has spent the last seven seasons in Oakland, where he hit a career-high 22 home runs in 2013 and tied for the AL lead in stolen bases (49) in 2011. He is currently 10th among active major league players with 306 steals.

Crisp has been involved in 31 postseason games across five seasons, hitting .282 with one home run and eight RBIs. He was a member of the 2007 world champion Red Sox.

Crisp is expected to report to the Indians on Thursday and will be placed on the active roster the following day.

## Mariners acquire Game

The Seattle Mariners acquired outfielder Ben Gamel from the New York Yankees on Wednesday for right-handed pitchers Jio Orozco and Juan De Paula.

Gamel will be added to the Mariners' roster on Friday, the team announced.

Gamel hit .308 with six home runs and 19 stolen bases in 116 games with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre this season. The 24-year-old was named International League Most Valuable Player on Tuesday.

Gamel played six games with the Yankees this season, going 1-for-8 at the plate, with one walk, one run and one strikeout.

De Paula, 18, was 1-2 with a 3.07 ERA in 11 games, including seven starts with the Rookie-level Arizona League Mariners in 2016.

Orozco, 19, was 2-2 with a 4.07 ERA in 12 contests, including five starts with the Arizona League Mariners this season.

## Red Sox

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RBI total to 84 to continue his hot second half. He is 23-for-63 (.365) with five homers and 22 RBIs in his last 17 games. It was his seventh career grand slam, second with Boston.

Xander Bogaerts also homered, his 17th of the season. Dustin Pedroia, also sizzling with the bat, had three more hits and is 19-for-33 during an eight-game hitting streak. He also has 18 hits in his last 24 at-bats at Fenway Park.

Forsythe matched his career high with his 17th homer, and Logan Morrison (No. 11) also went deep for the Rays.

Wright, in his second start since injuring his right shoulder running the bases in Los Angeles, yielded four runs in four innings. In two starts since his return, he has permitted nine earned runs on 14 hits, including four homers, in 10 innings.

Smyly had been 4-0 with a 2.82 ERA in his last seven starts coming in, but gave up five runs in five innings.

The Rays lost a run in the fourth inning when Tim Beckham (two hits) failed to

cross home plate before Kevin Kiermaier (three hits) was called out at second base.

NOTES: There was nothing official, but it appeared the Red Sox were going to recall speedy super prospect 2B Yoan Moncada when the rosters expand — in time for Friday night's opener of a nine-game road trip in Oakland. "We've talked about Yoan, and not just as a pinch runner," manager John Farrell said. "He's an exciting young player, extremely talented guy. There's all positive reviews and evaluations of him. When that major league experience is going to initiate, time with tell that. But in terms of playing the position of third base, yes, that conversation has been had." ... Boston RHP Brad Ziegler was unavailable for the second straight day because of the flu. ... SS Matt Duffy rested a sore Achilles for the Rays. ... RHP Alex Cobb, who hasn't pitched since late 2014 because of Tommy John surgery, returns to start for Tampa Bay at home against the Toronto Blue Jays Friday night, while David Price opens for the Red Sox in Oakland.

## Class C

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beat. They bring back many starters on each side of the ball from last year's squad, including their tailback and fullback," said Foxcroft Academy coach Danny White. "Their line may have taken a hit but I fully expect them to be back at the top of the league."

MDI and Foxcroft, who meet in Bar Harbor on Friday night in a key Week 1 matchup, expect to be among Winslow's top challengers in what could be a deep division with the likes of Old Town, Madison-Carrabec, Belfast and Oceanside of Rockland-Thomaston also aspiring to contend.

Like Winslow, MDI is working to firm up its line play but will rely on a trio of experienced juniors — quarterback Andrew Phelps, fullback Croix Albee and halfback Colby Lee — to ease that transition up front.

"It's one of the best-skilled backfields I've had in awhile, but we do need to figure out who's going to play where up front on both sides of the ball," said Shields, whose program is seeking its 11th consecutive playoff berth after advancing to the regional semifinals in 2015.

Junior Micah Hallett, a third-year starter, will lead MDI along the line of scrimmage.

Foxcroft, meanwhile, is happy to be relatively healthy at the start of its 2016 campaign after pre-season injuries — particularly one that sidelined University of Maine recruit Hunter Smith for his senior season — forced the Ponies to Plan B even before their 2015 opening kickoff.

Nick Clawson returns for his second year at quarterback after stepping in when Smith was injured. Clawson battled through a broken hand to guide Foxcroft to a semifinal berth, but off-season surgery has him healthy and poised for a productive junior year.

Senior halfback Billy Brock, who suffered a broken hand during the 2015



BDN FILE

Ethan Stoddard of Old Town (left) and Foxcroft Academy's Nick Clawson, shown during the 2015 Class C North semifinal in November 2015, will be key members of their respective teams as they try to dethrone two-time state champ Winslow this season.

preseason and was unable to carry the football until Foxcroft's first playoff game in late October, also is back and could be one of the division's top two-way players. He earned first-team conference honors at linebacker last fall despite missing three full games and wearing a cast throughout the season.

Other big-play threats for the Ponies include sophomores Hyatt Smith and Jeremy Richard and senior wide receiver Nick Dyer, all working behind a line that graduated four starters but

returns guard Reggie Johnston and senior tackle Matt Storer, who started for the Ponies as a sophomore but lived in North Carolina last year.

Madison-Carrabec hosted its first home playoff game in two decades last fall, and while that game didn't go as the Bulldogs had hoped — a quarterfinal loss to Foxcroft — coach Scott Franzose's club can regroup around one of the league's top backs in senior Nick Morales, who last fall became the school's first 1,000-yard rusher since 2010.

Old Town is coming off a breakthrough year last fall, an undefeated regular season followed by a trip to the regional championship game. Coach Lance Cowan's Coyotes graduated nine starters on both offense and defense but return 1,000-yard rusher T.J. Crawford and middle linebacker-tight end Ethan Stoddard as well as the confidence of an athletic program steeped in recent success, including the 2016 Class B baseball state championship.

Belfast has been a regular participant in the Class C North playoffs in recent years, and while coach Chris Bartlett had some key spots to fill during preseason the Lions will be a tough out for any opponent, as will an Oceanside club that will test its rivals with good size along the line of scrimmage.

Waterville has a rich football history to draw upon, while John Bapst of Bangor enters its second year back in Class C with a more experienced lineup after starting five sophomores and four freshmen last year. Hermon also seeks steady improvement under third-year coach Brad Deuring, and the Hawks should be aided by an impact transfer in junior Geovany Carino.

"There are enough good teams this year where there could be a surprise as to who gets to the top," said Shields, "but I think you have to give Winslow the nod because they're so well coached, they have the experience and they know how to win big games. They're the ones everyone's trying to knock off."

## UMaine

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tackles in 2015) and safety Obi Melifonwu (88 tackles) headline the Huskies' unit.

UMaine's defense returns some key performers, but it also has regrouped after the graduation of several veterans. Mainstays include All-

CAA tackle Pat Ricard, middle linebacker Christophe Mulumba Tshimanga and safety Sinnisola Demuren.

UConn's offense is led by elusive quarterback Bryant Shirreffs (168-for-279 passing, 2,078 yards, nine touchdowns, eight interceptions), running back Arkeel New-some (792 yards, six touchdowns; 45 receptions, 465

yards, two touchdowns) and wide receiver Noel Thomas (54-719-3).

"[They have] a very balanced game plan on offense from the games last year," Harasymiak said. Their special teams [are] nicely put together."

Pulling off only the third victory over an FBS foe in program history will require the Black Bears to execute well and avoid mistakes. "Hopefully we can play good special teams, not turn the ball over on offense, create some turnovers on defense and hopefully we'll be there with a shot at the beginning of the fourth quarter," Harasymiak said.

The teams have not met since 2007, when UConn posted a 38-0 victory at East Hartford.



Picard



Tshimanga

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