

Rangers take 2-0 lead vs. Jays; Astros, Royals tied

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

TORONTO — It came down to a battle of the bullpens. The Texas Rangers won that and ultimately the game Friday.

While the bullpen held the Toronto Blue Jays to two hits over the final seven innings, the Rangers scored twice in the 14th inning to earn a 6-4 victory and take a 2-0 lead in the American League Division Series.

"As far as our bullpen is concerned, what a phenomenal job they did today and the zeros they put up," Rangers manager Jeff Banister said.

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons was not surprised by the strength of the Texas bullpen.

"No, no, we saw them early in the year," he said. "They've got some big arms."

The Blue Jays' bullpen took a hit when left-hander Brett Cecil suffered what Gibbons called "a significant tear in his calf."

Cecil was injured in a rundown play that ended the eighth inning.

The Blue Jays bullpen also excelled until the 14th inning when Hanser Alberto, filling in a third base for injured Adrian Beltre, singled in the go-ahead run against right-hander LaTroy Hawkins.

Hawkins retired the first two batters of the 14th before second baseman Rougned Odor reached first on an infield hit.

Catcher Chris Gimenez followed with a single. Odor rounded second and slid back to the bag after a throw from right fielder Jose Bautista nearly caught him.

The call stood after a video review although the Rogers Centre crowd disagreed.

"It looked pretty clear to a lot of us that there was a little bit of space in there," Blue Jays center fielder Kevin Pillar said. "Besides, I thought it passed the eye test. But we've got the best umpires in the world for a reason so they're doing job as well."

After the review, Alberto singled to center to score Odor. Right-hander Liam Hendriks replaced Hawkins.

Center fielder Delino DeShields beat out an infield single to shortstop and another run scored.

Right-hander Keone Kela picked up the win and right-hander Ross Ohlendorf secured the save, pitching around a hit batter.

The Blue Jays know they must turn things around in a hurry.

"What do we have to do?" Pillar asked. "Not lose first of all. Just get back to what we've done. We haven't really played clean baseball. We've pitched outstanding but it's just a matter of stringing together some hits."

The Rangers forced extra innings on an RBI single by pinch-hitter Mike Napoli in the eighth.

Left fielder Ben Revere gave Toronto a 4-3 lead with a fifth-inning single.

The Blue Jays got a first-inning homer from third baseman Josh Donaldson.

Blue Jays right-hander Marcus Stroman allowed four runs (three earned), five hits and two walks while striking out five in seven-plus innings.

Rangers left-hander Cole Hamels allowed four runs (two earned) and six hits with six strikeouts in seven innings.



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Texas Rangers second baseman Hanser Alberto celebrates a 6-4 win in 14 innings against the Toronto Blue Jays in Game 2 of the ALDS at Rogers Centre in Toronto on Friday. The Rangers lead the series, 2-0.

Royals 5, Astros 4

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — Ben Zobrist drove in Alcides Escobar with the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as the Kansas City Royals rallied from a three-run deficit to defeat the Houston Astros 5-4 on Friday and even the American League Division Series at one win each.

Zobrist, acquired in a July 28 trade with Oakland, grounded a single to left on a curveball by Houston reliever

Will Harris that scored Escobar, who led off the inning with a triple to right center.

It was a survival game for the Royals after losing the opener on Thursday. They play the next two games in Houston and on Sunday face left-hander Dallas Keuchel, who is 15-0 this season at Minute Maid Park.

Royals relievers Kelvin Herrera, Ryan Madson and Wade Davis shut down the Astros in the final three in-

nings. Herrera picked up the victory and Davis logged his first postseason save.

Harris, the fourth of six Astros pitchers, took the loss.

The Astros jumped out to a 4-1 lead but managed just two singles after the third inning.

Both starters — Astros left-hander Scott Kazmir and Royals right-hander Johnny Cueto — were acquired in late July trades to bolster their club's

chances for the postseason.

Kazmir, who was acquired from Oakland, limited the Royals to three hits in seven scoreless innings on July 24 in his Astros debut but was clubbed in his final three regular-season starts, yielding 15 runs and 22 hits, including five home runs, for an 11.57 ERA.

Kazmir departed after 5 1/3 innings, charged with three runs, five hits and a walk.

Ripken interested in Nationals job

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Cal Ripken Jr. expressed interest in the Washington Nationals' manager job during a Friday interview on the **Rich Eisen MAJOR LEAGUES** Show.

Ripken played 21 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles but doesn't have managerial or coaching experience. The Hall of Famer asserted that shouldn't be an issue in his pursuit of the gig.

"The baseball background I have, you're a student of the game," the 55-year-old Ripken said. "There's a lot said about experience or a lack of experience in managers coming through. To me, it's all about your philosophy, how you handle things, what you're going to do. And then, it's being able to apply. I haven't had a chance to apply that, so no one knows. That would be a risk, I suppose."

The Nationals fired Matt Williams after a disappointing campaign in which the preseason choice to reach the World Series didn't even qualify for the playoffs.

Mariners fire manager McClendon

The Seattle Mariners fired manager Lloyd McClendon on Friday after two seasons.

McClendon, 56, guided the Mariners to a 76-86 record in 2015, also leading to the dismissal of general manager Jack Zduriencik in late August.

Mariners executive vice president and general manager of baseball operations Jerry Dipoto was hired during the final week of the regular season to determine McClendon's fate.

McClendon was named manager on Nov. 5, 2013. He compiled a 163-161 record in two seasons in Seattle. He has a 499-607 career mark as a major league manager with the Pittsburgh Pirates (2001-2005) and Seattle. He was under contract for 2016.

"I have a great deal of respect for Lloyd, as a person and as a manager," Dipoto said in a statement. "It is a credit to his professionalism that the team continued to play hard through the final day of the season. However, after extensive conversations it became clear to me

that our baseball philosophies were not closely aligned. On behalf of the Mariners I want to thank Lloyd and his staff for their hard work the past two seasons, and I wish him the best moving forward."

Dipoto was hired on Sept. 29 after previously serving as general manager with the Los Angeles Angels. He clashed with the on-field coaching staff with the Angels before he resigned during the 2015 season.

Dipoto also announced that batting coach Edgar Martinez and infield coach Chris Woodward have been invited to return to the coaching staff. In addition, pitching coach Rick Waits and coach Chris Prieto have been invited to return to the Mariners organization.

Bench coach Trent Jewett, third base coach Rich Donnelly, outfield coach Andy Van Slyke and bullpen coach Mike Rojas will not be returning to the Mariners.

Jays' Donaldson returns

Third baseman Josh Donaldson was back in the lineup for the Toronto Blue Jays for Game 2 of the American

League Division Series on Friday.

Adrian Beltre, who left Game 1 with a strained back, was not in the lineup for the Texas Rangers. Texas won 5-3 on Thursday.

Donaldson left Game 1 following a slide into second base on which he took a knee to the head from Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor, who also was limping after the play. The impact resulted in a visible cut on Donaldson's forehead and wrenched his neck backward. Donaldson passed a concussion test Thursday and a follow-up Friday.

Right fielder Jose Bautista, who exited Game 1 on Thursday with a hamstring cramp, was also in the lineup for Toronto.

Astros closing roof

—The Astros announced the roof will be closed at Minute Maid Park for games Sunday and Monday.

"Our ballpark fully enclosed can get really loud when it's 40-50,000 people. It's bring your earplugs," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said

Husson, Colby name new coaches

BANGOR — Husson University alumnus Michael Craig has been named the interim head men's lacrosse coach at the school.

Craig becomes the program's fifth head coach and replaces Marsh Gray, who took the same position at Thomas Colby College after only one season at Husson, according to a Husson news release.

"I am immensely excited about the opportunity to return home and coach," Craig said in a news release. "It is a coach's dream to return to his alma mater, and I am extremely fortunate to have achieved this honor."

Craig, 25, also will work for the Husson athletics facilities and event management staff.

"I am confident that Michael's skill, experience and dedication to Husson University will result in the continued growth and progress of our men's lacrosse program," Husson director of athletics Frank Pergolizzi said. "I know that our team and staff are very happy that Michael is coming back to Husson."

Craig comes to Husson after spending the 2015 season as the boys varsity coach at York High School.

Craig was the Husson defensive coordinator from 2013 to 2014 and helped guide the Eagles to two berths in the North Atlantic Conference semifinals.

Craig spent the 2012 season at Husson as a long-stick midfielder. He started 19 games and recorded five goals and two assists.

He was a long-stick midfielder at Kennebunk High School for four seasons from 2004-07 and was a three-time All-State selection as well as an All-American as a senior.

Colby names track coach

Dave Cusano, who coached 49 All-American performances in just four years at Wheaton College, has been named head

coach of the Colby College track and field programs at the Waterville school.

Cusano will be head coach of both the men's and women's track and field programs.

"He has a proven record of success in coaching elite athletes to success both in New England and nationally," Tim Wheaton, Colby's Harold Alford director of athletics, said in a news release. "His coaching and academic experience and knowledge, coupled with his energy and enthusiasm, make him a great addition to the Colby community."

Cusano has a Maine background after graduating from the University of Maine and spending seven years as an assistant coach with the Black Bears' track programs.

"He has a proven record of success in coaching elite athletes to success both in New England and nationally."

TIM WHEATON, COLBY DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

"I'm really thankful to [Provost] Lori Kletzer and Tim Wheaton for this opportunity and for being so welcoming during this process," said Cusano, a Connecticut native. "I like the Maine way of life and being outdoors."

Cusano was a two-time New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Coach of the Year at Wheaton.

Cusano was an assistant track and field coach at the University of Maine from 2005 to 2011. He earned his bachelor's degree in exercise physiology from Maine in 2004 and followed that with his master's degree in exercise physiology in 2008 while competing in football and track and field.

Harness racing returns to Bangor Monday

BANGOR — The fall season of harness racing at Bangor Raceway begins at 5 p.m. Monday at Bass Park and will continue Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through the end of October.

Post times are 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 6 p.m. Fridays.

"We are excited to enter the fall season of racing at Bangor Raceway," Michael Hopkins, manager of racing operations at Hollywood Casino Hotel and Raceway, said in a news release. "We have some special events planned for October, and a good month of racing ahead of us that will bring us to the close of the season in mid-November."

Bangor Raceway will host a Shoes of Hope race card on Oct. 23, with donations going to women in harness racing battling breast cancer.

The next day, Bangor Raceway at Hollywood Casino will host the annual Eastern Maine Walk to End



BDN FILE
Drivers and horses make their way around the track at the Bangor Raceway in April.

Alzheimer's. That walk begins at 10 a.m. and information about registration and donations can be found at alz.org.

Bangor Raceway will host the 2- and 3-year-old consolation finals of the Maine

Sire Stakes on Oct. 30. That same evening will feature a special memorial race honoring the life of Eddie Reynolds. Reynolds, 64 of Machias, was a longtime employee at Bangor Raceway who died in an accident at the

track on Sept. 9.

Racing will continue on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday evenings through Nov. 16. Post times in November will be 5 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays and 6 p.m. Fridays.