

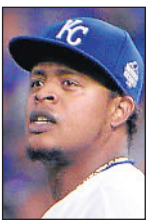
# Volquez learned of father's death after start

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Kansas Royals right-hander Edinson Volquez, who threw six innings in Game 1 of the World Series on Tuesday night, learned of his father's death after his start.

Volquez's father, Daniel, died of heart failure in the Dominican Republic before the game, and the Royals kept the news a secret until later to honor the family's wishes.

When Volquez walked into the Royals' clubhouse in the seventh inning, general manager Dayton Moore was waiting for him, according to USA Today. Moore ushered Volquez into manager Ned



Volquez

Yost's office, where Volquez's wife, Roandry, and 2-year-old twin daughters were awaiting to break the news to him.

Volquez's father died earlier in the day after battling heart disease for several years. He was 63.

Before the game, Yost conferred with bench coach Don Wakamatsu and catching coach Pedro Grifol about how to handle the situation. They all agreed to honor the family's wishes.

"The whole time I kept thinking, Eddie was out there pitching his tail off," Yost said after the Royals outlasted the New York Mets for a 5-4, 14-inning win, "and I kept thinking, his dad isn't watching him. His first start in a World Series, and his dad isn't watching him."

"I was really monitoring him. He was happy, upbeat. He was



there talking to all of his friends. OK, he doesn't know anything.

"It was hard for me to know what I know, and see the way he competed. It was a sad situation. There was no road map. You just do what the family asked you to do. It was real special to them that Eddie goes out and pitches that game."

Volquez yielded six hits and three runs in six innings. He was gone by the time the Royals came back into the clubhouse after the marathon game.

"I heard the news right now," said Royals shortstop Alcides Escobar, who opened the game by hitting an inside-the-park homer run, the first in a World Series game since 1929. Volquez "sent me a text saying, 'Thank you guys, for winning that game for me.'"

Pitcher Chris Young, whose father died a month ago from cancer, was the only Royals' player told before the game of Volquez's father, only to prepare him for a possible start, according to USA Today. If Volquez found out about his father's death, the Royals wanted Young to be prepared as their emergency starter.

Young ended up pitching the final three hitless innings, and getting the emotional victory. Young said he felt the presence of his

father, Charles, during every pitch of the game.

"Every inning tonight I was thinking about my dad," Young said, "hearing his choice. I'm sure Edinson is too. Anytime I feel like I lose focus, I hear my dad in my head saying, 'Concentrate. Focus on what you need to do to help this club win. He's with me constantly. It's just fresh for me, and tonight brought that back.' Words can't describe my pain for Eddie tonight."

Volquez has returned to be with his family in the Dominican Republic for the funeral.

Volquez will rejoin the Royals in New York, where the series against the Mets shifts on Friday night for Game 3, the team confirmed Wednesday. Volquez is scheduled to pitch a potential Game 5 on Sunday in New York.

## Mets' defense comes into question

BY ANTHONY RIEBER  
NEWSDAY

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — It took one pitch into the bottom of the first inning Tuesday night for one of the Mets' main fears about this World Series matchup with the Royals to come into focus.

Alcides Escobar hit Matt Harvey's first offering into deep left-center field. Center fielder Yoenis Cespedes got to the ball, appeared to even slightly overrun it, and made a halfhearted backhanded stab at it.

The ball missed Cespedes' glove and hit his right shin and headed toward the left-field line. Left fielder Michael Conforto, who had shied away from trying to catch the ball in deference to Cespedes, ran it down. But not until Escobar circled the bases and scored without a throw home to give Kansas City a shocking 1-0 lead.

It was the 12th inside-the-park home run in World Series history and first since 1929, when Mule Haas hit one for the Philadelphia A's against the Chicago Cubs.

Escobar was the MVP of the Royals' six-game ALCS victory over the Blue Jays.

Coming into this series, the Mets were aware of the Royals' penchant for putting the ball in play. It meant defense — something the Mets have not always excelled at in 2015 — was going to be an important factor.

"They're not a team that walks a lot, but they don't strike out a lot, either,"



PETER G. AIKEN | USA TODAY

Kansas City Royals shortstop Alcides Escobar rounds third base on an inside-the-park home run against the New York Mets in the first inning of Game 1 of the World Series at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri, on Tuesday night. The Royals won 5-4 in the 14th inning to take a 1-0 series lead.

manager Terry Collins said. "Which means they'll put the ball in play, which means your defense has to step up. And I think that's going to be one of the areas where we certainly have to — and Tim (Teufel) does a great job, so does Tommy (Goodwin) — we've got to do a real good job in that ballpark because it's a big park and when they put the ball in play, we've got to get them in the right spots."

Collins decided to start Cespedes in center with Kelly Johnson as the designated hitter against right-hander Edinson Volquez. Collins had the option of

starting 2014 NL Gold Glove award winner Juan Lagares in center and using either Cespedes or Conforto in left with the other as the DH.

"We looked at all the possibilities," Collins said Monday. "And if (Game 2 starter Johnny) Cueto was starting, we were looking at perhaps somebody else (for DH), because his numbers against lefties are pretty good. We thought Kelly gave us our best opportunity and if we need to make changes, we will. But yeah, we're pretty happy with our outfield defense. This is a big park, like ours. I think Yoenis has shown that he can play cen-

ter field. And if we need to make moves, we'll make moves later in the game."

With the Mets leading 3-1 in the sixth, Lagares came in to play center with Cespedes moving to left.

True to the Royals' reputation, no Kansas City batter struck out until Harvey got Kendrys Morales leading off the fourth.

The Mets redeemed themselves on defense when David Wright made a leaping catch of a Salvador Perez liner to end the fourth and Wilmer Flores threw out Escobar on a ball deep in the shortstop hole to end the fifth.

## Patriots

Continued from Page B5

to the success of an NFL team," Brady said, "and I'm fortunate to play for the one that I feel is the best of all time. There's really no way it can be (overstated), how important it is."

If Brady is talking strictly Xs and Os, Belichick gets a huge advantage.

But if Brady is also taking emotion into account, considering how Dolphins players have responded to Campbell so far, maybe he could coach his team to an improbable victory.

Miami's defense has been a big-play crew for the last two weeks, and the pass rush, led by defensive end Cam Wake, has been among the featured attractions.

New England has allowed 16 sacks this season, tied for 16th-most in the NFL, so there's hope the defensive line could get to Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, one of the quickest decision-makers in the league.

Brady said his offensive line has done a good job.

"We see a lot of games and twists," he said. "Everyone is obviously trying to get to the quarterback all the time, but we've been faced with a lot of challenges and I think those guys have really stepped up to it."

Miami hopes it can get to Brady, but interim coach Dan Campbell realizes the games and twists might not be as successful as strong 1-on-1 play.

"There's only so much you can do," Campbell said of rushing Brady, "and everything has been done at one time or another, he's seen all of it."

"At some point you just have to lineup and play foot-

ball and ultimately that's what we've got to do. We've got to play our style of football and do our best to try to at least contain him or limit him."

"They try to find a weakness. They exploit it and then they will repeat it over and over and over."

One thing Miami wants to focus on against New England on Thursday is playing a complete game. Two years ago, the Dolphins had a 17-3 halftime lead over the Patriots but lost, 27-17. Last year the Dolphins took a 14-13 deficit into halftime but eventually lost, 41-13.

New England, in recent years, has put pressure on Miami on offense, defense, special teams and coaching.

One slip, and it seems that's all it takes for an avalanche of Patriots key plays and, eventually, a victory, especially at Gillette Stadium, where New England has a six-game winning streak over Miami.

The Dolphins know they need a complete game.

"They're a good team," quarterback Ryan Tannehill said. "They're coached well, they execute, they play well and you have to be on the top of your game for the entire game."

"If you play three good quarters and have one bad quarter, then nine times out of 10 they're going to beat you. We have to play a full game from start to finish and execute the entire game."

Cornerback Brice McCain (knee) was limited in Tuesday's practice and said he's "questionable" for Thursday's game. Look for rookie Bobby McCain to play the slot in the nickel defense is Brice McCain doesn't play. Cornerback Brent Grimes (knee) was limited in Tuesday's practice but it appears Grimes will be OK to play against New England.

## Manziel to meet with NFL investigators

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Cleveland Browns backup quarterback Johnny Manziel was expected to meet with NFL investigators after practice Wednesday.

The NFL is investigating whether Manziel violated the league's personal-conduct policy in an Oct. 12 incident with his girlfriend.

Coach Mike Pettine described the NFL interview as "imminent" at his Wednesday news conference. Sources told ESPN that the meeting is

set for Wednesday afternoon, with a representative from the league present.

Manziel was stopped by police on an interstate in the Cleveland suburb of Avon after driving at a high rate of speed and weaving through traffic. He had an argument with his girlfriend, Colleen Crowley, who told police that Manziel hit her "a couple times" and pushed her face against a car window.

Manziel, who spent time in alcohol rehab during the off-season, said he had a few

drinks earlier in the day, but police did not detect that he was impaired. However, officers determined that Crowley was drunk.

Pettine said Wednesday that the league wants to handle it quickly.

"Yes, there's a sense of urgency to it, and that meeting is imminent," Pettine told reporters.

Pettine is not certain if Manziel, who took first-team reps in practice Wednesday, will be available for Sunday's game against the Arizona Cardinals.

Manziel is still expected to be the backup behind Josh McCown, who rested Wednesday with his shoulder and rib injuries suffered in the loss to the St. Louis Rams last Sunday. McCown, who underwent an MRI on Monday, is "truly day to day," Pettine said.

"We're just 'wait and see,'" Pettine said. "The league has its protocol on how they handle these situations and we've been ultra cooperative to date and will continue to be."

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