



Relief pitcher Mark Melancon #35 of the Pittsburgh Pirates delivers against the Colorado Rockies and earned a save at Coors Field on Sept 22, in Denver, Colorado. (AFP)

# Yankees beat Blue Jays to inch closer to AL East title

Pirates top Rockies, move closer to playoff spot

**TORONTO, Sept 23, (AP):** Greg Bird hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning and the New York Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 6-4 Tuesday night to move closer in the AL East pennant race.

Bird connected off reliever Mark Lowe (1-3) for the rookie's 10th home run in 34 games and third in the past three nights.

Brian McCann led off the 10th with a bunt single and was replaced by pinch-runner Rico Noel. Slade Heathcott reached on catcher's interference before Bird drove a 2-2 pitch into the right-field bullpen. Six of his 10 homers have given the Yankees a lead.

Andrew Miller (3-2) pitched two innings for the win and New York closed within 2 1/2 games of first-place Toronto. The teams meet for the final time this season Wednesday night.

**Cubs 4, Brewers 0**

In Chicago, Jake Arrieta threw a three-hitter to become the first pitcher in the major leagues to reach 20 wins, Kris Bryant set the Cubs rookie record for home runs and Chicago inched closer to a playoff berth with a victory over the Brewers.

Arietta (20-6) struck out 11 for Chicago, whose magic number for making its first postseason in seven years dropped to three.

The right-hander retired 14 in a row at one point in becoming the first Cubs pitcher to win 20 games since Jon Lieber in 2001.

Bryant, whose April 17 debut was one of the most anticipated in years, hit a two-run homer in the third off Tyler Cravy (0-8) to give Chicago a 2-0 lead. It was Bryant's 26th longball, besting Billy Williams' mark in 1961. Bryant added a run-scoring double in the eighth.

**Angels 4, Astros 3**

In Houston, Mike Trout and Albert Pujols hit back-to-back homers in the first inning and the Angels held on for an important victory over the Astros.

The victory moves the Angels 2 1-2 games behind Houston for the second American League wild-card spot.

There was one on in the first when Trout launched his 40th homer into left-center to make it 2-0. The 36th home run this season by Pujols extended the lead to 3-0.

Houston cut the lead to 1 when Marwin Gonzalez and Chris Carter hit consecutive solo shots in the second inning.

The Angels added an insurance run on an RBI single by Kole Calhoun in the eighth to help them snap a six-game losing streak in Houston.

Hector Santiago (9-9) allowed four hits and two runs in five-plus innings.

**Pirates 6, Rockies 3**

In Denver, Starling Marte drove in two runs and the Pirates closed in on their third straight playoff berth by beating the Rockies.

The Pirates reduced their magic number to one for securing at least an NL wild card. A win Wednesday against the Rockies would clinch another trip to the postseason.

Pittsburgh also kept pace with NL Central leader St. Louis. The Cardinals beat Cincinnati to maintain a four-game lead over the second-place Pirates.

Pittsburgh scored in each of the first four innings against Chris Rusin to build a 6-3 lead.

**Orioles 4, Nationals 1**

In Washington, Ubaldo Jimenez pitched six gritty innings to earn his 100th career win and added an RBI single as the Orioles beat the Nationals in the rain-delayed opener of a series between teams fighting to remain in the playoff race.

The 31-year-old Jimenez (12-9) won his third straight decision for Baltimore,

which began the night trailing three teams and six games back for the AL's second wild card.

The Nationals remained 6 1-2 games back of the Mets, who lost to Atlanta, in the NL East division. But New York's magic number to clinch the division dropped to six.

Bryce Harper set the Nationals record for walks, getting three free passes that upped his season total to 118.

Jimenez walked five, but allowed just an unearned run on three hits while also striking out five.

Monday's opener was postponed by rain. The teams are scheduled to play a makeup game Thursday.

**Braves 6, Mets 2**

In New York, Rookie right-hander Matt Wisler stopped his nine-start winless drought and the Braves stalled the

Mets' push toward the NL East title.

David Wright homered as the Mets lost for the fifth time in seven games. They held their 6 1/2-game lead over Washington.

Down 4-1, the Mets loaded the bases with one out in the eighth. Edwin Jackson, Atlanta's fourth pitcher of the inning, gave up a sacrifice fly to pinch-hitter Michael Cuddyer and got Wilmer Flores on a grounder to protect the lead.

Pinch-hitter Adonis Garcia lined a two-out, two-run double in the ninth off Mets reliever Tyler Clippard.

**Rangers 8, Athletics 6**

In Oakland, California, Delino DeShields hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the sixth fourth batters after Mitch Moreland connected for a tying two-run homer, and the Rangers beat the Athletics to increase their lead in the AL West.

Chi Chi Gonzalez (4-5) pitched two scoreless innings for the win in relief of starter Martin Perez as the Rangers

moved two games ahead of Houston after the Astros lost 4-3 at home to the Angels.

DeShields hit another sacrifice fly in the eighth, while Shin-Soo Choo and Adrian Beltre hit consecutive sacrifice flies in the fifth to aid the Texas comeback.

Jake Smolinski and Marcus Semien hit back-to-back RBI triples in the second to give the A's 40 on the season, tying the Oakland record set in 1968.

**Giants 4, Padres 2**

In San Diego, Rookie Trevor Brown's RBI double was his first major league hit and Angel Pagan had a two-run home run for the Giants, who beat the Padres to pull within six games of first-place Los Angeles in the NL West.

Time's running out for the defending World Series champion Giants, who have only 12 games left. They trail the Chicago Cubs by 9 1-2 games for the second wild card spot. The Giants have beaten the Padres six straight times and eight of nine.

**Diamondbacks 8, Dodgers 0**

In Los Angeles, Robbie Ray pitched six innings of three-hit ball, A.J. Pollock and Paul Goldschmidt hit back-to-back homers in the seventh, and the Diamondbacks beat the Dodgers.

The Dodgers lost their fourth straight game, equaling their longest slide of the season, but they remain six games ahead of the Giants in first place in the NL West.

The Diamondbacks have won the first two games of this four-game series after losing their previous nine at Dodger Stadium. But the Dodgers have aces for the next two — major league ERA leader Zack Greinke on Wednesday and reigning NL Most Valuable Player Clayton Kershaw on Thursday.

**Twins 3, Indians 1**

In Minneapolis, Ervin Santana pitched strong into the eighth inning, Aaron Hicks and Brian Dozier each had two hits and an RBI from the top two spots in Minnesota's lineup, and the Twins beat the Indians to start a critical series for the American League wild card chasers.

Santana (6-4) turned in his fifth straight stellar start, surrendering five hits, one run and one walk while striking out seven. He gave up two singles to start the eighth, but Glen Perkins got three straight outs.

Kevin Jepsen struck out two in the ninth inning for his eighth save in nine tries since replacing Perkins as the closer.

**Mariners 11, Royals 2**

In Kansas City, Missouri, Robinson Cano homered twice and drove in four runs and Hisashi Iwakuma struck out a season-high 10 as the Mariners romped past the slumping Royals.

The AL Central-leading Royals have dropped 12 of 17. Their magic number for clinching the division remained three.

Cano and Kyle Seager each hit solo homers in the first inning for Seattle, which has the league's best record in September at 13-6 but is still three games under .500 (74-77). It was Seager's 25th home run and his seventh in 23 games.

**Phillies 6, Marlins 2**

In Miami, Cody Asche hit two home runs to help Aaron Harang get his first victory in over a month as the Phillies beat the Marlins.

It was Harang's first win since July 30 against Atlanta, a span of eight starts. Harang (6-15) pitched seven innings, allowing two runs and seven hits.

Darin Ruf homered and Freddy Galvis had three hits and drove in two runs for the Phillies, who announced before the game that Pete Mackanin would be their manager for the 2016 season, dropping the interim title he had since taking over for Ryne Sandberg on June 26.

**Cardinals 3, Reds 1**

In St. Louis, John Lackey pitched seven strong innings, rookie Tommy Pham continued his productive hitting and the Cardinals beat the Reds.

Lackey (13-9) allowed only a first-inning homer by Jay Bruce during his 16th quality start in 16 outings at Busch Stadium. The veteran right-hander struck out seven, walked none and lowered his home ERA to 1.97.

St. Louis improved to an MLB-best 95-56 with its second straight low-scoring victory over Cincinnati. Steve Cishek worked the ninth to earn his first save for St. Louis.

Ray (5-12) struck out seven, walked two and escaped a bases-loaded jam in the first inning.

**Tigers 2, White Sox 1, 10 innings**

In Detroit, Rajai Davis' two-out triple in the 10th gave Detroit a victory over the White Sox, one inning after the Tigers lost a combined no-hitter.

Anthony Gose drew a two-out walk from Zach Duke (3-6) in the 10th. Davis sliced a 3-1 fastball into the corner in right field and Gose easily beat Trayce Thompson's throw to the plate.

Blaine Hardy (5-3) got the win with a scoreless 10th.

The Tigers were two outs away from the first combined no-hitter in club history, but Neftali Feliz, making his debut as the Tigers' closer after Bruce Rondon was sent home earlier in the day, couldn't finish it.

**Rays 5, Red Sox 2**

In Boston, Mikie Mahtook hit a two-run homer and Matt Moore recovered from a difficult start to strike out seven as the Rays beat the Red Sox.

Moore (2-4) allowed two hits and walked two in the first inning as Boston took a 2-0 lead.

Boston rookie Henry Owens was perfect through four innings.

Logan Forsythe led off the fifth with a double for Tampa Bay's first hit and he scored on a sacrifice fly. Owens (3-3) unraveled in the sixth.

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## Baseball into deep mourning

# New York Yankees great Yogi Berra dies aged 90

WASHINGTON, Sept 23, (AFP): Iconic New York Yankees catcher Yogi Berra, an athlete as beloved for his folksy sayings as for his legendary baseball career, has died, the Yogi Berra Museum said early Wednesday. He was 90.

The Hall of Famer and three-time Most Valuable Player died of "natural causes" late Tuesday, the museum said in a statement.

"Yogi conducted his life with unwavering integrity, humility and a contagious good humor that elevated him from baseball legend to beloved national icon," the museum said. Berra, a 15-time All Star and 10-time World Series champion, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1972.

But the baseball great was equally well-known for humorous quips and malapropisms such as "It's deja vu all over again."

Others include such one-liners as "it ain't over till it's over" and "when you come to a fork in the road, take it."

Major League Baseball columnist Marty Noble said on the league's online news page that "a loss that unquestionably transcends the game has sent all of baseball into deep mourning."

Berra's museum announced his death "with a profound sense of loss and heartfelt sorrow."

His family added that "while we mourn the loss of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, we know he is at peace with mom."

Berra, whose real first name was Lawrence, was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1925 to Italian immigrant parents from Milan.

He began playing baseball in the American Legion leagues and it was there that he picked up the Yogi nickname — his friend Bobby Hofman felt he resembled a Hindu yogi when he sat around with arms and legs crossed while waiting to bat.

Berra joined the US Navy at the age of 18 and served as a machine gunner on the USS Bayfield during the legendary D-Day Allied invasion of Normandy.

According to the Yogi Berra Museum: "He often said that his military service in World War II was

more significant to him than anything he did on the baseball field."

He married his wife of 65 years, Carmen in 1949 and had three sons, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He spent the majority of his 19-year career with the Yankees but also played one season for the New York Mets. He went on to manage both New York teams.

He won the World Series a record 10 times and following his retirement, his Yankees No. 8 jersey was also retired.

He was known for "doing the right thing" and a "natural tolerance" of others, befriending Elston Howard, the team's first black player, when he joined the Yankees in 1955. In 2013, Berra also became an ambassador for Athlete Ally, a non-profit organization dedicated to combating homophobia and transphobia in sport.

Berra remained close to the Yankees throughout his life, attending spring training as an advisor until he was 87.

When he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1972 he said: "I want to thank baseball. It has given me more than I could have ever hoped for. And I hope that when I'm through with this game, I will put something back."



A picture taken on April 12, 2000 shows former New York Yankees catcher Yogi Berra throwing out the first pitch to start the home season for the New York Yankees in New York. (AFP)

## MLB Scoreboard

WASHINGTON, Sept 23, (Agencies): Scoreboard from the MLB games on Tuesday:

Results									
Baltimore	4	Washington	1	Minnesota	3	Cleveland	1		
NY Yankees	6	Toronto (10 innings)	4	Seattle	11	Kansas City	2		
Detroit	2	Chi White Sox	1	LA Angels	4	Houston	3		
		(10 innings)		St Louis	3	Cincinnati	1		
Tampa Bay	5	Boston	2	Pittsburgh	6	Colorado	3		
Atlanta	6	NY Mets	2	Texas	8	Oakland	6		
Philadelphia	6	Miami	2	Arizona	8	LA Dodgers	0		
Chicago Cubs	4	Milwaukee	0	San Francisco	4	San Diego	2		

  

Standings									
American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	86	65	.570	-	NY Mets	85	66	.563	-
NY Yankees	83	67	.553	2-1/2	Washington	78	72	.520	6-1/2
Baltimore	74	76	.493	11-1/2	Miami	64	87	.424	21
Tampa Bay	73	78	.483	13	Atlanta	61	91	.401	24-1/2
Boston	72	78	.480	13-1/2	Philadelphia	57	94	.377	28
Central Division					Central Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Kansas City	87	63	.580	-	St Louis	95	56	.629	-
Minnesota	77	73	.513	10	Pittsburgh	91	60	.603	4
Cleveland	74	75	.497	12-1/2	Chicago Cubs	89	62	.589	6
Chi White Sox	72	79	.477	15-1/2	Cincinnati	63	87	.420	31-1/2
Detroit	70	81	.464	17-1/2	Milwaukee	63	88	.417	32
Western Division					Western Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Texas	81	69	.540	-	LA Dodgers	85	65	.567	-
Houston	80	72	.526	2	San Francisco	79	71	.527	6
LA Angels	77	74	.510	4-1/2	Arizona	73	78	.483	12-1/2
Seattle	74	77	.490	7-1/2	San Diego	70	81	.464	15-1/2
Oakland	64	87	.424	17-1/2	Colorado	63	88	.417	22-1/2

  

MLB Linescores												
American League					Interleague							
New York	200	000	010	3-6	12	0	Baltimore	020	020	000-4	6	3
Toronto	001	100	001	1-4	7	1	Washington	000	100	000-1	3	1
(10 innings)							U Jimenez	Brach	(7)	O'Day	(9)	and Joseph
							Gonzalez	Fister	(5)	Thornton	(7)	Janssen
							Treinen	(9)	and	Loaton	W Jimenez	12-9
							L Gonzalez	11-8	Sv	O'Day	(4)	
National League												
Philadelphia	120	100	110-6	11	1							
Miami	000	000	200-2	8	2							
Harang	Hinojosa	(8)	Giles	(9)	and	Kratz						
Koehler	Narveson	(6)	Lazo	(8)	Rienzo	(8)						
Realto	W Harang	6-15	L Koehler	10-14								
	HRs	Philadelphia	Asche	(2)	(11)	Ruf	(9)					



Chicago Cub Jake Arrieta hits a single off Milwaukee Brewers relief pitcher Kyle Lohse during the seventh inning of a baseball game Sept 22, in Chicago. (AP)



Toronto Blue Jays' catcher Dioneo Navarro tags out New York Yankees Chris Young during the ninth inning of a baseball game Sept 22, in Toronto. (AP)