



Pedro Severino #29 of the Washington Nationals slides safely into second base under the tag by Brock Holt #12 of the Boston Red Sox in the fifth inning during a baseball game at Nationals Park on July 4, in Washington, DC. (AFP)

Red Sox complete sweep, Nationals fall below .500

Stanton, Sabathia lead Yankees to 6-2 win over Braves

WASHINGTON, July 5, (AP): Jackie Bradley Jr. drove in two runs, Eduardo Rodriguez struck out six in six innings and the Boston Red Sox beat the Washington Nationals 3-0 on Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Rodriguez (10-3) allowed three hits and walked one. Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his 26th save in 28 chances, finishing a six-hitter.

The Nationals (42-43) have lost five in a row to fall below .500 this late in the season for the first time since being 60-61 on Aug. 21, 2015. The preseason NL East favorites held a players-only meeting after the game.

A throwing error by Adam Eaton on Bradley's sacrifice fly and a wild pitch by Ryan Madson (2-4) in the seventh inning contributed to Washington's 17th loss in 22 games.

Nationals starter Erick Fedde left one batter into the second inning with right shoulder stiffness. Manager Davey Martinez said Fedde was scheduled to have an MRI.

Yankees 6, Braves 2

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton hit a three-run homer and C.C. Sabathia pitched six effective innings, leading the Yankees to the victory.

Yankees rookie second baseman Gleyber Torres left in the fifth inning because of tightness in his right hip and was placed on the 10-day disabled list with a right hip strain.

Aaron Judge and Kyle Higashioka also homered for New York. Higashioka became the ninth player since 1920 whose first three hits were home runs.

Sabathia (6-3) yielded two runs and five hits. Atlanta starter Julio Teheran (6-6) lasted just five innings, allowing five runs and five hits. He struck out 10 and walked four.

Cardinals 8, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Yadier Molina and Yairo Munoz homered, Miles Mikolas threw six strong innings and St. Louis broke loose late to beat Arizona and take two of three from the first-place Diamondbacks.

Molina's three-run shot on the first pitch from reliever Fernando Salas highlighted a five-run seventh inning after Arizona had nursed a 2-1 lead through six. Tommy Pham drove in three Cardinals runs with a double and two singles.

The Diamondbacks dropped to 1-5 on their homestand and lead the surging Dodgers by just a half-game in the NL West.

Mikolas (9-3) gave up two runs, seven hits and four walks.

Arizona reliever Yoshihisa Hirano (2-1) had his franchise-record streak of 26 games without allowing a run end when Munoz homered on the first pitch of the seventh. Hirano gave up four runs, one earned, on three hits in two-thirds of an inning for his first loss since coming to the major leagues from Japan this season.

Astros 5, Rangers 4, 10 Innings

In Arlington, Texas, Evan Gattis drove in Jose Altuve with a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, sending AL West-leading Houston to the road win.

Altuve stopped a 0-for-13 slide with a one-out single in the 10th. Chris Martin (1-2) then hit Yuli Gurriel with a pitch before an errant pickoff throw allowed both runners to move up. Gattis followed with a fly ball to right-center.

Gurriel homered, doubled and scored twice as the Astros overcame an early four-run deficit. Collin McHugh (4-0) pitched three scoreless innings, and Ken Giles got three outs for his 12th save.

Texas' Shin-Soo Choo homered and singled to extend his on-base streak to 44 games, the longest in his career and in the majors this season.

Dodgers 6, Pirates 4

In Los Angeles, Rich Hill earned his first win in three months, Yasmani Grandal and Chris Taylor drove

in three runs apiece, and the Dodgers swept the Pirates for the second straight year.

The Dodgers outscored the Pirates 31-8 in the three-game series while winning their fourth in a row overall.

Hill (2-3) allowed two runs in five innings for his first victory since April 1. Kenley Jansen earned a five-out save, his 23rd of the season.

Gregory Polanco hit a two-run homer for Pittsburgh. Clay Holmes (0-1) was charged with four runs in 2-1/3 innings in his first major league start.

Cubs 5, Tigers 2

In Chicago, Javier Baez stole home, Willson Contreras hit a tiebreaking homer and the Cubs earned their sixth straight victory.

Conditions at Wrigley Field favored the long ball, with a game-time temperature of 92 degrees, a heat index of 102 and the wind blowing out.

David Bote also connected for Chicago. Jose Quintana (7-6) pitched six effective innings in his first win since May 31, and Brandon Morrow got three outs for his 19th save.

Nicholas Castellanos and John Hicks went deep for Detroit, which has dropped 13 of 15. Francisco Liriano (3-5) permitted three runs in six innings.

Athletics 4, Padres 2

In Oakland, Calif., Stephen Piscotty doubled three times and drove in three runs, powering Oakland to the win.

Khris Davis added an RBI single for the A's, who have won 14 of 17 to move a season-high nine games over .500.

Lou Trivino (7-1) retired two batters

BASEBALL

for the win. Blake Treinen pitched the ninth for his 22nd save.

Christian Villanueva hit his 17th home run for San Diego. Jose Castillo (1-2) got the loss.

Phillies 4, Orioles 1

In Philadelphia, Aaron Nola stuck out nine in seven innings, Nick Williams hit a two-run homer and the Phillies beat the Orioles to sweep a two-game interleague series.

Nola (11-2) gave up one run and seven hits to win his fifth straight decision. Victor Arano tossed two innings for his first career save.

Philadelphia pulled within 1-1/2 games of NL East-leading Atlanta and improved 10 games over .500 for the first time since finishing the 2011 season with a franchise-record 102 wins.

Orioles right-hander Yefry Ramirez (0-2) gave up two runs — one earned — and one hit in five innings.

Mets 6, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Todd Frazier hit a two-run homer for the Mets, and Brandon Nimmo reached base three times.

Frazier gave the Mets the lead with a drive to center field off Marcus Stroman (1-6) in a five-run fifth inning.

Seth Lugo (3-3) pitched three innings for the win. Jeury Familia earned his 16th save in 20 opportunities.



Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Aaron Nola throws during the third inning of the team's baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, on July 4, in Philadelphia. (AP)



Aaron Judge #99 of the New York Yankees connects on a seventh-inning home run against the Atlanta Braves at Yankee Stadium on July 4, in the Bronx borough of New York City. (AFP)

Wilmer Flores had two hits for the Mets, who had lost 11 of 13. Kendrys Morales homered for Toronto. Stroman was tagged for six runs and six hits in 4-2/3 innings.

Brewers 3, Twins 2

In Milwaukee, Nate Orf hit a solo homer in Milwaukee's two-run seventh after going hitless in his first seven major league at-bats.

Brad Miller homered to right-center off Jose Berrios (8-7) to lead off the bottom of the seventh for the Brewers. Two batters later, Orf sent a 2-2 curveball down the left-field line for a two-run lead.

Jeremy Jefferson (6-1) picked up the win despite allowing inherited runner Brian Dozier to score from third on Jorge Polanco's bloop single to left for a 1-1 tie in the top of the seventh.

Corey Knebel worked a rocky ninth for his 10th save. Eduardo Escobar hit his 13th homer and Jorge Polanco singled with two out, but Max Kepler fled to left to end the game.

Knebel was helped by a sparkling defensive play from Keon Broxton. The center fielder ran full speed back to the wall and jumped with an outstretched glove to rob Dozier of a homer for the second out.

Angels 7, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Kole Calhoun hit a two-run homer, helping the Angels snap the Mariners' eight-game winning streak.

Calhoun had three hits and three RBIs. Garrett Richards (5-4) got the win in his return from the disabled list, allowing three runs in 5-1/3 innings.

Kyle Seager and Ryon Healy homered for Seattle. Mike Leake (8-5) surrendered four runs and nine hits in four-plus innings.

Blake Parker pitched out of trouble in the ninth for his 10th save.

Rockies 1, Giants 0

In Denver, Chris Iannetta homered in the seventh, Tyler Anderson pitched eight stellar innings and the Rockies beat the Giants for the three-game series sweep.

It was the first 1-0 game at Coors Field since June 12, 2010.

Anderson (6-3) tied a season high with nine strikeouts. Wade Davis worked a shaky ninth for his 25th save.

Andrew Suarez (3-5) pitched seven crisp innings, but San Francisco managed just three hits.

The game lasted just 2 hours, 15 minutes — the shortest at Coors this season.

Indians 3, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Trevor Bauer pitched effectively into the eighth inning, and Cleveland finished a three-game sweep.

Michael Brantley had an early RBI double and the Indians scored all their runs in the first three innings on only one hit. Bauer (8-6) struck out eight in 7-2/3 innings.

The plummeting Royals have lost six straight and 18 of 21. Trevor Oaks (0-2), recalled from Triple-A Omaha to take Ian Kennedy's spot in the rotation, allowed three runs in four innings. Cody Allen worked the ninth for his 18th save in 19 chances.

Reds 7, White Sox 4

In Cincinnati, starting pitcher Sal Romano dropped down a suicide squeeze during Cincinnati's six-run fourth inning.

Jesse Winker and Jose Peraza each had a two-run single during the big rally, and Scooter Gennett also singled in a run. The Reds overcame Daniel Palka's third home run in two games to win the three-game series and complete a 4-3 homestand.

Yoan Moncada added a two-run homer for the White Sox, who have dropped five of seven. Dylan Covey (3-4) lasted just 3-2/3 innings.

Romano (5-8) was charged with four runs in five innings. Jared Hughes got five outs for his sixth save.

Marlins 3, Rays 0

In Miami, Jose Urena and three relievers combined on a four-hitter, and Miami shook off the hangover from a 16-inning loss. J.T. Riddle singled, tripled and homered.

The teams took the field barely 12 hours after the Rays won a 5-1/2-hour marathon.

Urena struck out six in five innings. Drew Rucinski (4-1) pitched two innings for his second win in the series. Brad Ziegler pitched around a walk in the ninth to earn his 10th save.

After using nine pitchers Tuesday, the Rays called up right-handers Andrew Kittredge and Ryan Weber from Triple-A Durham as reinforcements. Weber (0-1) allowed two runs in five innings and was optioned after the game back to Durham.

Povetkin a likely opponent

World champ Joshua becomes 'fourth lion' in the Wembley den

LONDON, July 5, (AFP): Britain's heavyweight world champion Anthony Joshua says Wembley just added a "fourth lion to the den" as he committed to staging his next two bouts at the historic stadium.

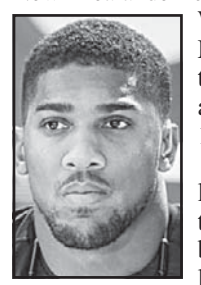
Wembley is the historic home to the England football team whose nom de guerre is "The Three Lions".

The 28-year-old 2012 Olympic champion — whose epic 11th round knockout of Ukrainian great Wladimir Klitschko in April 2017

again is amazing.

"Wembley just added a fourth lion to the den."

Joshua returns to the capital after the sellout bouts in Cardiff where he defended his belts against Carlos Takam last October, then took New Zealander Joseph Parker's



Joshua

WBO belt in March — with the two events attracting over 150,000 fans.

Joshua's likely opponent for the first bout back at Wembley is Russia's Alexander Povetkin.

Since he beat Parker, Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn has been trying to set up a unification bout with WBC heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder, but has not yet managed to do a deal with the American's camp.

The WBA lost patience over the matter in late June and Joshua was told to defend his title against Povetkin, who is the mandatory challenger, although that is yet to be agreed upon either.

MLB Scoreboard

WASHINGTON, July 5, (Agencies): Results and standings from the MLB games on Wednesday.

Team	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	3	0	.750	0
NY Yankees	6	2	.750	0
Miami	3	0	.750	0
Chicago Cubs	5	2	.708	0
Philadelphia	4	1	.800	0
Oakland	4	2	.667	0
LA Angels	7	4	.636	0
MLAwaukee	3	2	.600	0
Houston	5	2	.708	0
NY Mets	6	3	.667	0
Toronto	7	4	.636	0
LA Dodgers	6	4	.600	0
Colorado	1	4	.200	0
Cleveland	3	4	.429	0
St Louis	8	4	.667	0

American League

Team	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	59	29	.670	-
NY Yankees	56	28	.667	1
Tampa Bay	43	43	.500	15
Cincinnati	40	46	.465	18
Baltimore	24	61	.282	33-1/2

American League - Central

Team	W	L	PCT	GB
Cleveland	48	37	.565	-
Detroit	38	50	.432	11-1/2
Minnesota	35	48	.422	12
Chic W. Sox	30	56	.349	18-1/2
Kansas City	25	61	.291	23-1/2

American League - West

Team	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	57	31	.648	-
Seattle	55	32	.632	1-1/2
Oakland	48	39	.552	8-1/2
LA Angels	44	43	.506	12-1/2
Texas	38	49	.437	18-1/2

National League

Team	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	49	36	.576	-
Philadelphia	47	37	.560	1-1/2
Washington	42	43	.494	7
NY Mets	34	49	.410	14
Miami	36	52	.409	14-1/2

National League - Central

Team	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	51	35	.593	-
Chicago Cubs	49	35	.583	1
St Louis	44	41	.518	6-1/2
Pittsburgh	40	46	.465	11
Cincinnati	38	49	.437	13-1/2

National League - West

Team	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	48	39	.552	-
LA Dodgers	47	39	.547	0-1/2
San Francisco	45	43	.511	3-1/2
Colorado	44	43	.506	4
San Diego	37	51	.420	11-1/2

MLB Linescores

Team	W	L	PCT	GB		
Los Angeles	010	212	010-7	13	1	
Seattle	020	001	010-4	10	2	
Richards	060	000	010-4	10	2	
Robles (7)	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Anderson (8)	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Maldonado	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Bradford (7)	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Vincent (8)	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Herrmann	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Zunino	000	000	000-0	0	0	
W-Richards	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Leake	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Sv-Parker	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Calhoun	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Seattle	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Healy	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Seager	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Houston	000	000	000-0	0	0	
Texas	013	000	000-0	4	11	2

(10 innings)
Cole, Harris (6), McHugh (7), Giles (10) and Federowicz; Minor, Leclerc (7), Diekmann (8), Kela (9), C. Martin (10) and Chirinos. W-McHugh 4-0. L-C. Martin 1-2. Sv-Giles (12). HRS-Houston, Reddick (8), Gurriel (5), Texas, Choo (16).

Cleveland 210 000 000-3 4 0
Kansas City 010 010 000-2 8 0
Bauer, O. Perez (8), C. Allen (9) and

R. Perez; Oaks, Fillymer (5), T. Hill (8), W. Peralta (9) and Butera. W-Bauer 6-6. L-Oaks 0-2. Sv-C. Allen (18).

Interleague

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	
Boston	000	000	201-3	9	1
Washington	000	000	000-0	6	1
Rodriguez	000	000	000-0	6	1
Fedde	000	000	000-0	6	1
Grace	000	000	000-0	6	1
Kintzler	000	000	000-0	6	1
Kelley	000	000	000-0	6	1
Herrera	000	000	000-0	6	1
Miller	000	000	000-0	6	1
Severino	000	000	000-0	6	1
W-Rodriguez	000	000	000-0	6	1
Madson	000	000	000-0	6	1
Sv-Kimbrel	000	000	000-0	6	1
Tampa Bay	000	000	000-0	4	0
Miami	000	000	000-0	4	0
Andriese	000	000	000-0	4	0
Wood	000	000	000-0	4	0
Sucre	000	000	000-0	4	0
Urena	000	000	000-0	4	0
Rucinski	000	000	000-0	4	0
Hernandez	000	000	000-0	4	0