

N.Y. Subway Series pulling up to familiar stop

By Ben Walker
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Mets are finding out what the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants learned long ago. The Yankees are hard to beat in a Subway Series.

What Derek Jeter started with a home run on the very first pitch, the bullpen finished off. The New York Yankees downed the Mets 3-2 Wednesday night and closed within one victory of their third straight World Series title.

"We're one win from where we want to be," Jeter said.

Game 4 marked the Yankees' third one-run victory of the Series.

A sellout crowd of 55,290 at Shea Stadium seemed much more subdued than for the Mets' 4-2 win in Game 3, possibly because of a much larger presence of Yankees rooters.

Also, the noise blaring from the center-field speakers was turned

down, probably because Mets co-owner Nelson Doubleday complained about the volume.

The ballpark figures to be a lot louder — either way — on Thursday night when the Yankees try to become the first team since the 1972-74 Oakland Athletics to win three titles in a row.

Andy Pettitte will start Game 5 against the Mets' Al Leiter. Of the prior 40 teams to take a 3-1 lead in the World Series, 34 have gone on to win the championship.

The last team to blow a 3-1 deficit was St. Louis in 1985 to Kansas City.

"Well, it's someplace I've been before, but it's certainly not familiar and surefire stuff," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

If the Yankees win, they hope to have a dry clubhouse for a celebration. Severe flooding from a burst pipe soaked their locker room, including furniture that Yankees owner George Steinbrenner brought

from Yankee Stadium, and forced players to conduct post-game interviews on the field.

"All of a sudden, the massage room and the weight area and the hot tub area, it was like Niagara Falls," winning pitcher Jeff Nelson said. "The ceiling collapsed, there was water everywhere. This green, gunky water."

The night certainly started out well for the Yankees.

Moved up to the lead-off spot for the first time in this Series, Jeter delivered. He became the first player to homer on the opening pitch of a World Series game since Pete Rose for Cincinnati in 1972.

"I've been known to swing at the first pitch," Jeter said. "When you play games like this, you want to score early. I got a good pitch to hit, and I hit it well."

"We're playing at Shea Stadium, and even though there are a few Yankee fans here, you want to take

the crowd out of the game," he said.

Even though Torre calls his star shortstop a "kid," Jeter might soon be the owner of four Series rings at age 26.

Jeter's shot off Bobby J. Jones sent the Yankees on their way.

Said Jones: "I wasn't expecting him to swing."

"Putting a run on the board was the difference in the game," Mets manager Bobby Valentine said.

Mike Piazza's two-run homer closed the Mets to 3-2 in the third inning, and there was no more scoring as both managers made early moves to the bullpen.

Yankees starter Denny Neagle was pulled after 4 2-3 innings with a 3-2 lead, with David Cone coming in to retire Piazza on a pop-up to end the fifth.

Nelson pitched 1 1-3 innings, Mike Stanton struck out the only two batters he faced in the seventh and Mariano Rivera pitched two in-

nings for his first save of the series.

Rivera was helped when right fielder Paul O'Neill made a sliding catch on Edgardo Alfonzo's liner to start the eighth. Yankees fans erupted when Rivera earned his sixth career World Series save, tying Rollie Fingers' record, by striking out Matt Franco to end the game.

Strawberry arrested...again

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — For the second time in as many months, Darryl Strawberry is required to stand before a criminal court judge.

On Thursday, a judge was to decide whether Strawberry should be jailed for at least 30 days after the troubled slugger was accused of leaving a residential drug treatment center for a weekend crack and prescription drug binge.

Strawberry, who along with his legal troubles has cancer, was arrested Wednesday on charges he violated the house arrest he was serving at the treatment center.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 26). Your plans could lead to success, but keep them private for a while. Let worries motivate you, not slow you down in November. You're lucky at finding valuables in December. Give a little at home in February, and you'll get more in return. You outweigh the competition in May. Don't pay too much, even for a good thing, in June. By July you should be ready for a cruise on the love boat. If you don't have a mate, you may find one there. You and a few good friends take new territory in September.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — A team effort could run into difficulties, soon. You haven't budgeted enough for all the expenses. The good news is you and your buddies aren't out of ideas yet — far from it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — You may be carrying more than your share of the burden. That's what it feels like, anyway. Maybe you ought to release your iron grip on the job. Maybe somebody else could do it as well as you — almost. It's worth a try.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — Your best time for romance today is early. As the day goes on, you get busier. Tonight you may be swamped! The good news is you'll get a lot done. The bad news is snuggle time's rare — all next Sunday!

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — If you want to make a date for tonight, good luck. You may feel like you've run an obstacle course by the time you get there. It might be worth it, though. You choose.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — Home is where you'd like to be, snuggled up with a good book. Somebody may have other plans for your time. Your sweetheart might have a surprise in store. Don't ignore a person who's close, or the surprise won't be a happy one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 —

Learning a new routine may make your life easier, eventually. Right now, it's just making things more complicated. Don't fight it; that'll just make the whole process take longer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — If you can't decide what to buy, wait. It'll get easier. Somebody else might want to make the decision for you. Besides, you need to find out what your sweetheart thinks. That might not be what you expect. Don't rush into anything.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — A slight difference of opinion could escalate into an issue if you're not careful. Knowing what you want will make life easier. That should be clear by tonight. You may not get all of it, but you'll have a place to start negotiating from.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — You're about to be tested on something you're learning. Your doubts about your abilities don't help one bit. Instead of worrying, study. Get a good friend to be your coach.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 5 — A friend's great scheme to make a million still has a few rough spots. You might not know about a few details, too. Better move slowly on that one if money's involved — especially if it's your money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 6 — Your dream and somebody else's reality are on a collision course. Don't try to explain; the other person is having trouble hearing you. Be patient. This may take a while. You come from two different worlds.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 5 — Travel's not a good idea, especially by water. Can you start your cruise later, say, next spring? Getting a package out might even be hard. Insure everything for twice its worth. That way if it doesn't get there, you make a profit.

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