



David J. Phillip/The Associated Press

Boston's Eduardo Nunez reacts as he runs past first base coach Tom Goodwin after hitting a three-run home run during the seventh inning Tuesday night in Boston.

Red Sox take Game 1

By Ben Walker
The Associated Press

The Fenway Funhouse proved too tricky, too cold and just too much for the beach boys.

Andrew Benintendi, J.D. Martinez and the Boston Red Sox came out swinging in the World Series opener, seizing every advantage in their quirky ballpark to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-4 on a chilly, windy Tuesday night.

Benintendi had four hits, Martinez drove in two early runs and pinch-hitter Eduardo Nunez golfed a three-run homer to seal it. The 108-win Red Sox got a solid effort from their bullpen after an expected duel between aces Chris Sale and Clayton Kershaw never developed.

From the get-go, old Fenway Park caused all sorts of problems for the Dodgers.

Mookie Betts led off for the Red Sox with a popup that twisted first baseman David Freese as he tried to navigate the tight foul space near the stands and gauge the gusts. Lost, he overran the ball and it dropped behind him.

"You never really know," Benintendi said. "The flag will be blowing one way, and the wind is actually blowing the other. You have to be on your toes pretty much."

Given a second chance, Betts lined a single that set up a two-run first inning.

"It was important for us to score first and kind of put some pressure on them," he said.

In the seventh, newly inserted left fielder Joc Pederson looked hesitant as he chased Benintendi's soft fly, rushing toward the seats that jut out down the line. The ball ticked off his glove for a ground-rule double, and soon Nunez connected off Alex Wood to break open a 5-4 game.

"We didn't play the defense that we typically do. I thought we left some outs out there," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "And it didn't make Clayton's job any easier."

The crowd and cold temperatures were no picnic for Los Angeles, either.

The oddly angled ballpark became an echo chamber even before the first pitch. Chants of "Beat LA!" began early, Kershaw got heckled with a sing-song serenade and Dodgers villain Manny Machado heard loud boos all evening.

Only one person wearing Dodger blue drew a cheer: Roberts, saluted in pre-game introductions for the daring steal that turned the tide in Boston's 2004 playoff comeback against the Yankees.

"I think we had the advantage tonight with the weather and stuff. We've been playing through it," Red Sox pitcher Nathan Eovaldi said.

It was 53 degrees at first pitch and it dropped into the mid-40s by the end. That was the coldest game for Los Angeles this season and quite a contrast from last year's World Series, when it was a record 103 degrees for the opener at Dodger Stadium against Houston.

"We won Game 1 last year and lost

the Series, so maybe we'll try it out this way. See if we can win one," Kershaw said.

Game 2 is Wednesday night, when it's supposed to be even colder. David Price, fresh from beating Houston in the ALCS clincher, starts against Hyun-Jin Ryu.

Both teams rely heavily on analytics, and it showed: With each manager searching for the most beneficial matchup, the clubs combined to use 12 pitchers and six pinch-hitters.

Benintendi scored three times for Boston, trying for its fourth championship in 15 seasons.

Matt Kemp homered and Justin Turner had three hits for the Dodgers, aiming for their first crown since 1988. Machado drove in three runs, and his RBI grounder in the fifth inning made it 3-all.

Boston retook the lead in the bottom half when Xander Bogaerts hustled to beat out a potential inning-ending double play — Dodgers reliever Ryan Madson seemed to celebrate a little too early.

Rafael Devers followed with an RBI single, making it 5-3 and giving himself an early birthday present. He turned 22 at midnight, three minutes before the game ended.

Martinez, who led the majors with 130 RBIs, gave the crowd a scare when his foot slipped rounding second base on a run-scoring double in the third. He fell hard, but soon got up.

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EOU ROUNDUP

May's big night not enough to prevent EOU loss

■ May scores 37 for Mountaineers against Carroll; EOU football jumps to 18th; EOU women's hoops at No. 7

Observer staff

The Eastern Oregon men's basketball team was unable to hold onto a half-time lead and dropped its first contest of the season, falling to Carroll College, 98-89, Monday night in Helena, Montana.

EOU ended the first half on an 8-2 run to take a 46-40 lead into the break on a basket by Jarek Schetzle, and extended the advantage to eight early in the second half on a Landon Jones basket.

Carroll, though, responded with an 18-2 run to take the lead for good, and twice pulled ahead by as much as 14 in the second half.

Jordan May torched the nets for 37 points on 13-for-17 shooting, including 7-for-8 from 3-point range, to lead the Mountaineers. Joel Anderson added 16 points and both Jones and Schetzle had 11 points.

Jones also had game-highs of seven rebounds and six assists.

The Mountaineers (2-1 overall) travel to the Cal Maritime Tournament in Vallejo, California, this weekend, where they first face UC Merced.

EOU FOOTBALL MOVES TO NO. 18

The Eastern Oregon football team moved up one spot to No. 18 in the NAIA coaches poll Monday following its fourth straight win.

EOU continues to be one of four Frontier Conference teams in the poll. Rocky Mountain moved up two spots to No. 13, and Montana Western, the conference leader, moved up two spots to No. 16.

Southern Oregon, which

lost its third straight game, fell nine spots to 23rd.

Morningside, Iowa, continues to hold the top spot after beating then-No. 3 Northwestern, Iowa.

EOU travels to face College of Idaho Saturday, and the Mountaineers will also have their eye on the matchup between Montana Western and Rocky Mountain. A win by Rocky and by Eastern would create a three-way tie for first place in the Frontier Conference with two weeks to play.

EOU WOMEN'S HOOPS RANKED SEVENTH

The Eastern Oregon women's basketball team, which was recently named the favorite to win the Cascade Collegiate Conference title, was ranked seventh in the NAIA Division II preseason coaches poll on Tuesday.

EOU, which a year ago went 31-3 and was a perfect 20-0 in the CCC, is one of just two teams from the conference in the poll. The Mountaineers are joined by No. 12 Southern Oregon.

Concordia, Nebraska, holds the top spot in the national poll. Defending national champion Dakota Wesleyan is second.

EOU just edged out SOU for the top spot in the CCC preseason coaches poll with 113 points and seven first place votes. The Raiders were second with 111 points and three first-place votes.

Oregon Tech (88), Northwest Christian (80) and Corban (71) rounded out the top five in the CCC poll.

EOU opens the season Nov. 2 against Cal Maritime in Redding, California.

PREP VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

Tigers' opponent named; Union gets in

Observer staff

The La Grande volleyball team learned its opponent for the first round of the Class 4A state playoffs following Tuesday night's play-in games.

The Tigers (16-5 overall) will host the Marshfield Pirates, who topped Corbett

in four sets to reach the playoffs.

The Pirates, who are 18-6, finished in a three-way tie for second in the Sky-Em League, and have a win over Sky-Em champion Cottage Grove as the highlight on their schedule.

The Saturday afternoon

match is set to be played at 2 p.m., according to Athletic Director Darren Goodman.

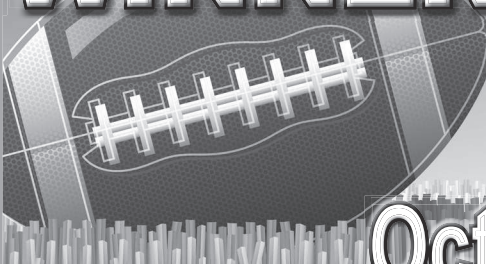
The Union Bobcats, meanwhile, clinched the third of four at-large bids to the 2A playoffs, earning a berth for the second year in a row.

Union (13-10) will hit the road to face the Central Linn

Cobras in its first-round match Saturday. Central Linn (19-4) won the Central Valley Conference, and enters having won eight of its last nine matches. The Cobras reached the state semifinals a year ago.

The time for the contest is yet to be determined.

FOOTBALL CONTEST WINNERS!



Oct. 15

1ST - BOB KRETSCHMER - LA GRANDE MISSED 1
2ND - JOHN HAYES - LA GRANDE MISSED 2
3RD - (TIE) MEL TOWNE, UNION MISSED 2 & TIEBREAKER
DOUG HENDERSON, LA GRANDE MISSED 2 & TIEBREAKER
Congratulations! From The Observer.

Come In!



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