



Seattle Mariners' Austin Jackson, center, is mobbed by teammates after hitting in the game-winning run against the Baltimore Orioles in the 10th inning of a baseball game Tuesday in Seattle. The Mariners won 6-5.

Elaine Thompson/AP Photo

Home teams win all 15 games for first time in MLB history

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Baseball Writer

Home sweep home.

When the Seattle Mariners beat Baltimore 6-5 in 10 innings Tuesday night, it marked the first time in baseball history all 15 home teams won on the same day.

Viewing every game as a 50-50 proposition independent of all others, STATS figured the odds of a home sweep on a night with a full major league schedule at 1 in 32,768. Now that's home cookin'!

STATS said previously the best performance by hosts had been 11-0, accomplished six times — three in the 1800s. The most recent occasion was Sept. 16, 1989.

"Without saying, it's more difficult on the road," said manager Bruce Bochy of the World Series champion Giants. "There's got to be a slight advantage to playing at home and I think your good teams play well at home, they win at home."

Cleveland and Miami also needed extra innings to come out on top in their

own ballparks. Other winners were: Toronto, Tampa Bay, Kansas City, Minnesota, St. Louis, Arizona, San Diego, San Francisco, the New York Mets, the Chicago Cubs, the Chicago White Sox and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Four visiting teams got shut out: Atlanta at Tampa Bay; Colorado by the Mets; the Angels against the White Sox; and the Nationals at Dodger Stadium.

The last time home clubs went undefeated on a day with more than one game was an 8-0 record on Aug. 28, 2008 — although road squads were 7-0 on April, 2, 2013, according to STATS.

Arizona and Tampa Bay joined the majors as expansion franchises in 1998, bringing the total to 30 teams.

In the last game to finish, Seattle squandered a three-run lead in the eighth inning against the Orioles before Austin Jackson's bases-loaded single down the right-field line won it for the Mariners at Safeco Field.

"I still didn't know if it was fair even when he called it," Jackson said. "I guess it hit the chalk and the rest is history."



Tony Dejak/AP Photo

Cleveland Indians' Francisco Lindor, top, jumps on Michael Brantley after Brantley hit a game-winning RBI-single in the 16th inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees Tuesday in Cleveland. Jose Ramirez scored on the play.

Money game: Phil, Fowler, Spieth add spice to PGA practice

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — Jordan Spieth let out a very large "Whoooooo" after watching the 20-foot putt hit the bottom of the cup.

Sunday on the 18th green at the PGA Championship? Not quite.

But still very satisfying. And it wasn't even Spieth's putt.

Rather, it was rookie Justin Thomas making the long twister on No. 16 at Whistling Straits to give himself and Spieth a 2-up lead over Phil Mickelson and Rickie Fowler in their Tuesday best-ball match. Mickelson has been setting up these practice-round games — just for fun and a bit of cash — for years.

"It feels good for everyone," Spieth said. "That's why Phil gets them together."

Two-down with two holes to go, Mickelson and Fowler pressed Spieth and Thomas on the 17th tee box, setting up a new bet that covered only the last two holes. Mickelson responded by hitting his tee shot pin high, to 8 feet, on the 223-yard par 3, then making the putt for birdie to win the hole.

That set up some drama on 18, when Fowler drained a 20-foot birdie putt, forcing Spieth to knock one in from about 5 feet to halve the whole, keep the lead in the overall game and end up even in the betting.

Which, of course, is what really counts on days like this.

"You don't want to lose and have to hand those guys whatever you play for," said Spieth, who goes for his third major of the season when the 'real' golf starts Thursday. "There's a little bit of nerves strictly because of bragging rights. And also because it means something."

Nobody reveals the stakes. Suffice to say it's not a \$2 Nassau. The combined career

earnings of the four players is more than \$135 million.

Thomas, a 22-year-old tour rookie making his second appearance in a major, has won only \$2 million of that. His entry into this game is another longstanding tradition of Mickelson's. In addition to getting sharp for the grinding week ahead, Mickelson sets up these games to give the young players the taste of pressure — and, specifically, pressure in a team game, the likes of which they play every year on the U.S. side in the Presidents or Ryder Cups.

"If I go out and play on a Tuesday, I don't get much out of it," Thomas said. "You lose focus. You kind of hit shots that don't mean anything. Every shot means something on a day like today. The nerves can get going."

Anticipating the showdown with Mickelson, Spieth suggested last week that he might bring the U.S. Open trophy he won at Chambers Bay and place it on every green. It's the only major trophy Lefty has yet to win. "It's the first time I have something on him," Spieth said.

But it never came to that.

Less is more, Spieth said, when going against Mickelson, a Grade A trash talker who once made copies of the \$100 bills he won off Tiger Woods, drew smiley faces on them and placed them in Woods' locker, along with a note telling Tiger the Benjamins were very happy in their new home.

"He doesn't like it if you're quiet," Spieth said about Mickelson. "If you give it back to him, that's when he knows it's bothering you."

And so, after Thomas made the 20 footer on 16 to go 2 up with two to go, he passed Fowler and gave him a nice slap on the butt. That, along with Spieth's shout, were the winning team's most outward displays of emotion.

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