

Red Sox manager steps away to battle lymphoma

By KEN POWTAK
Associated Press

BOSTON — Fighting back tears, Boston Red Sox manager John Farrell said Friday that he had a “highly curable” form of cancer and has taken a medical leave for the rest of the season to deal with lymphoma.

The 53-year-old Farrell said bench coach Torey Lovullo will run the team in his absence. Farrell said he planned on being back with the team for spring training.

Farrell said the cancer of the lymphatic system was discovered when he had hernia surgery in Detroit earlier this week.

“I know we usually start out with the injury report. I’ll start out with myself on this one. Monday’s surgery for the hernia revealed that I have lymphoma,” he said before Friday night’s game at Fenway Park against Seattle.

“Thankfully, it was detected in the hernia surgery. I can honestly tell you I’m extremely fortunate that it was found. Treatment will begin in the coming days,” he said.

Farrell said a mass was completely removed during the procedure and no additional surgery was necessary. He said chemo-

therapy would start early next week.

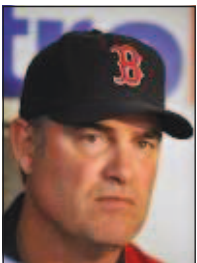
Red Sox stars David Ortiz and Dustin Pedroia stood along a wall to Farrell’s left when he made the announcement. Vice President Sam Kennedy, general manager Ben Cherington and Lovullo also were in the room.

“A little bit of a shocker to be told later that afternoon that this was going on. Like I said, I’m fortunate,” Farrell said. “Stage 1. It’s localized. It’s highly curable. I’m extremely fortunate to not only be with people with the Red Sox, but access to MGH (Massachusetts General Hospital) and world class talent that can handle this.”

The Red Sox are in last place in the AL East with a 50-64 record. In February, Farrell’s contract was extended through 2017 with a club option for 2018.

“When they mentioned the word ‘cancer,’ it’s something that it doesn’t matter where it comes from, it kind of impacts you,” Ortiz said.

Farrell guided Boston to the



Farrell

World Series championship in his first season in 2013. He previously managed the Toronto Blue Jays for two years.

“Sending you best wishes for a speedy recovery. Stay Strong and look forward to seeing you at the ballpark soon,” the Blue Jays tweeted.

On Tuesday, Minnesota Timberwolves coach Flip Saunders said he is being treated for Hodgkin lymphoma, and his doctors consider it “very treatable and curable.” His plans were to remain coach and team president while being treated.

Cherington said Farrell told him Thursday when the GM was traveling between flights en route to Greenville, South Carolina, to visit one of the team’s Single-A affiliates.

“He called me on a quick layover,” Cherington said. “I was sort of in shock. A few minutes to sink in and I figured I had to get back to Boston last night. I’ve been talking to him yesterday and this morning.”

“There’s a lot of respect for him, not just in the Red Sox organization, but throughout baseball,” he said. “There’s a lot of people already reaching out. He’s someone that spent his whole life in baseball.

He’s played, he’s coached, worked in the front office and, obviously, he’s managed now.”

Red Sox chairman Tom Werner spoke about Farrell during the pregame TV telecast.

“We all love John,” he said. “We said the most important thing is get back soon.”

Cleveland manager Terry Francona is one of Farrell’s closest friends. Farrell was the pitching coach under Francona when the Red Sox won the 2007 World Series.

“He’s such a tough guy and he has so many people that care about him that I just honestly feel like he will come through this with flying colors,” he said before the Indians played at Minnesota.

“I’m glad we’re going to go through there in a couple days because I’d like to see him. But he sounded really good,” Francona said.

New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi wished Farrell well.

“It’s not what you want to see. Say some prayers for him and his family, hope everything goes well,” he said before a game in Toronto.

“Just get healthy, that’s most important. He’s a good man, a good baseball man, you want to see him get healthy.”

Los Angeles Angels manager

Mike Scioscia echoed that sentiment.

“It’s awful. We heard the prognosis is very good, that’s encouraging,” he said before a game in Kansas City. “But it’s scary whenever you hear of something like that happening. He’s a young man.”

Farrell, a former major league pitcher, was coaching for the Red Sox in 2007 when ace Jon Lester returned from lymphoma in late July.

Farrell said he never had any symptom before the notification of the cancer discovery.

Ortiz said he heard about Farrell’s condition from teammate Hanley Ramirez, who was crying when he delivered the news.

“We have a big family around here and definitely when it comes down to health issues, you want to be sure that everything goes OK. The organization is taking a lot of responsibility on that to make sure that John gets through it the way it’s supposed to be,” Ortiz said.

Farrell was touched by his players’ support.

“In a way, you live vicariously through their careers,” he said. “Yours is over, you try to help when you can with them, and when they show that support, it’s meaningful.”

BRIEFLY Local ties to LLWS

This year’s Little League World Series could have some local ties to the Pendleton area.

Saturday at noon Little League teams from Eagle, Idaho and Portland will take part in the Northwest Regional final in San Bernardino, Calif.

The Idaho team, the West Valley All-Stars, are coached by former Pendleton High School teacher and varsity football coach Tony Hilde. Tony’s son Chase is one of the team’s star players.

Tony left Pendleton almost eight years ago, but his extended family still calls Pendleton home.

The game will be televised on ESPN.

Mid-Amateur Golf Tournament at Wildhorse

The 27th annual Oregon Golf Association’s Mid-Amateur Championship begins on Saturday at Wildhorse Resort in Pendleton.

Over 70 of the finest mid-amateur golfers, aged 25 or older, in Oregon and Washington will be playing in the two-day tournament.

The last time that the OGA held a championship tournament at Wildhorse was in 2010 for the 13th Public Links Tournament.

—East Oregonian

NFL debuting ‘Next Gen’ stats during preseason

League hopes to bring fans even closer to the game

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

DETROIT — As Richard Sherman sprints side-by-side with Calvin Johnson, who is running faster? When Luke Kuechly collides with DeMarco Murray, who has more momentum? And which NFL players run slower in the fourth quarter than they did at the start of the game?

Thanks to nickel-sized transmitters on each players’ uniform and high-tech tracking systems at all NFL stadiums, fans will have a vast new set of statistics to study this season.

It’s all part of the league’s “Next Gen Stats” venture, which could eventually change the way teams scout opponents and design game plans.

“How fast does a running back get to the hole? How fast did he get through the hole?” said Nick Stamm, director of marketing and communications for Sportradar, the NFL’s data distributor. “There’s going to be really a lot of analysis that comes out of this.”

Speed in the NFL is generally measured in 40-yard dash times. Now,



AP Photo/Paul Sancya

A monitor above Ford Field shows statistics and movement for players and officials during warmups before a preseason game between the New York Jets and Detroit Lions Thursday. It’s all part of the league’s “Next Gen Stats” venture, which could eventually change the way teams scout opponents and design game plans.

fans will see who has “game speed” and who uses it every play.

The signals from the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chips each player wears are sent to small receivers positioned around the stadium.

Zebra Technologies Corporation is in charge of gathering all this information for the NFL, and Sportradar works to distribute it. Last season, over half the stadiums in the league were equipped for this type of tracking, and broadcasters occasionally mentioned these new stats. Now the data will be available on every play in every game.

“This season is about rapid

screen that tracked player movements even during pregame warmups.

The system can measure speed, distance covered and how much space between players at a given moment.

“The challenge is to make sense of these data points and put it into context,” Stamm said. “There’s going to be a lot of ways to commercialize this and get a different perspective of the game, and eventually it all will get to the fans.”

Microsoft’s NFL app will offer animated replays during games, giving fans an instant high-tech perspective on how plays unfolded.

“There’s a lot going on with 22 players during a play,” said Jeff Tran, director of sports and alliances at Microsoft.

As fans become more familiar with these Next Gen Stats, the question is what teams might be able to do with them. Fantasy players and gamblers will undoubtedly analyze the stats to try to get an edge.

Tech-savvy coaching staffs would also be eager to get the data, and the league is still trying to figure out how and when to allow teams to access it.

Teams can already use player tracking services during practice. NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy says there’s no timeline yet for offering the game data to

teams.

“We will continue to evaluate its use in conjunction with the competition committee,” he said.

The New Orleans Saints have been using the practice data.

“For us it is distance, workload, travel, all of those things. Zebra has been great to work with. We think it is helpful for us to monitor workload,” Saints coach Sean Payton said. “You are able to look for the exceptions when you are studying numbers. You are able to study and see maybe something that is unusual to stand out.”

As the technology evolves, it’s easy to brainstorm other possible applications. Perhaps a chip in the football could track its location, rendering the first-down chains obsolete. Or how about a way of measuring the force of hits, to help with research on concussions?

Even more basic metrics like a player’s speed or distance traveled can provide significant insights. If someone is coming back from an injury, it would be useful to compare his speed before and after getting hurt. And these new stats can also help fans look at a great player’s talent from a different perspective — such as when a player turns a broken play into positive yardage.

SCOREBOARD

Baseball				
American League East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	63	51	.553	—
Toronto	64	53	.547	½
Baltimore	58	56	.504	5
Tampa Bay	58	57	.504	5½
Boston	51	64	.443	12½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	69	46	.600	—
Minnesota	57	58	.496	12
Detroit	55	60	.478	14
Chicago	54	59	.478	14
Cleveland	54	60	.474	14½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	63	53	.543	—
Los Angeles	60	55	.522	2
Texas	57	57	.500	4½
Seattle	54	62	.466	8½
Oakland	51	66	.440	12
Friday’s Games				
Chicago Cubs 6, Chicago White Sox 5				
Baltimore 8, Oakland 6				
N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 3				
Boston 15, Seattle 1				
Texas 5, Tampa Bay 3				
Cleveland 6, Minnesota 3				
Kansas City 4, L.A. Angels 1				
Houston 5, Detroit 1				
Saturday’s Games				
N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 8-5) at Toronto (Estrada 10-6), 10:07 a.m.				
Seattle (F.Hernandez 14-6) at Boston (Milley 8-9), 10:35 a.m.				
Oakland (Bassitt 1-4) at Baltimore (Mi. Gonzalez 9-8), 4:05 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Arrieta 13-6) at Chicago White Sox (Quintana 6-9), 4:10 p.m.				
Cleveland (Tomlin 0-0) at Minnesota (Duffey 0-1), 4:10 p.m.				
Detroit (Verlander 1-5) at Houston (McHugh 13-6), 4:10 p.m.				
L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 5-8) at Kansas City (Cueto 1-1), 4:10 p.m.				
Tampa Bay (Archer 10-8) at Texas (Lewis 12-5), 5:05 p.m.				
Sunday’s Games				
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto, 10:07 a.m.				
Oakland at Baltimore, 10:35 a.m.				
Seattle at Boston, 10:35 a.m.				
Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox, 11:10 a.m.				
Cleveland at Minnesota, 11:10 a.m.				
Detroit at Houston, 11:10 a.m.				
Tampa Bay at Texas, 12:05 p.m.				
L.A. Angels at Kansas City, 5:10 p.m.				
Monday’s Games				
Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05 p.m.				
Oakland at Baltimore, 4:05 p.m.				
Cleveland at Boston, 4:10 p.m.				
Seattle at Texas, 5:05 p.m.				
Tampa Bay at Houston, 5:10 p.m.				
Chicago White Sox at L.A. Angels, 7:05 p.m.				

National League East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	63	53	.543	—
Washington	58	57	.509	4½
Atlanta	52	63	.452	10½
Miami	46	69	.400	16½
Philadelphia	46	70	.397	17
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	74	41	.643	—
Pittsburgh	67	46	.593	6
Chicago	66	48	.579	7½
Cincinnati	51	63	.447	22½
Milwaukee	49	68	.419	26
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	65	51	.560	—
San Francisco	62	53	.535	2
Arizona	56	58	.491	7½
San Diego	55	61	.474	10
Colorado	47	67	.412	17
Friday’s Games				
Chicago Cubs 6, Chicago White Sox 5				
Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Mets 2, 10 innings				
Atlanta 3, Arizona 2				
Milwaukee 3, Philadelphia 1				
St. Louis 3, Miami 1				
San Diego 9, Colorado 5				
L.A. Dodgers 5, Cincinnati 3				
San Francisco 8, Washington 5				
Saturday’s Games				
Arizona (Corbin 2-3) at Atlanta (Foltynewicz 4-3), 1:10 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Arrieta 13-6) at Chicago White Sox (Quintana 6-9), 1:10 p.m.				
Philadelphia (J.Williams 4-8) at Milwaukee (Nelson 9-9), 1:10 p.m.				
Cincinnati (Holmberg 1-1) at N.Y. Mets (Niese 7-9), 1:10 p.m.				
Miami (B.Hand 2-2) at St. Louis (Lackey 9-7), 1:15 p.m.				
San Diego (Cashner 4-12) at Colorado (J.Gray 0-0), 2:10 p.m.				
Cincinnati (Holmberg 1-1) at L.A. Dodgers (B.Anderson 6-7), 3:10 p.m.				
Washington (G.Gonzalez 9-4) at San Francisco (Peavy 2-5), 4:05 p.m.				
Sunday’s Games				
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Mets, 10:10 a.m.				
Arizona at Atlanta, 10:35 a.m.				
Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox, 11:10 a.m.				
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 11:10 a.m.				
Miami at St. Louis, 11:15 a.m.				
Washington at San Francisco, 1:05 p.m.				
Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers, 1:10 p.m.				
San Diego at Colorado, 1:10 p.m.				
Monday’s Games				
Arizona at Pittsburgh, 4:05 p.m.				
Miami at Milwaukee, 5:10 p.m.				
San Francisco at St. Louis, 5:15 p.m.				
Atlanta at San Diego, 7:10 p.m.				
Pacific Coast League				
American North Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	72	47	.605	—
Omaha	66	54	.550	6½
Iowa	65	54	.546	7
Colorado Springs	50	69	.420	22

American South Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Round Rock	68	52	.567	—
Memphis	62	58	.517	6
Nashville	55	65	.458	13
New Orleans	51	69	.425	17
Pacific North Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Fresno	71	48	.597	—
Reno	57	61	.483	13½
Sacramento	56	63	.471	15
Tacoma	56	63	.471	15
Pacific South Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Las Vegas	66	54	.550	—
El Paso	62	57	.521	3½
Albuquerque	51	69	.425	15
Salt Lake	47	72	.395	18½
Friday's Games				
Oklahoma City 6, New Orleans 4				
Nashville 9, Iowa 2				
Omaha 4, Memphis 2				
Colorado Springs 8, Round Rock 5				
Fresno 8, Albuquerque 6				
El Paso 3, Las Vegas 2				
Salt Lake 3, Reno 2				
Sacramento at Tacoma, Late				
Saturday's Games				
Albuquerque at Memphis, 4:05 p.m.				
El Paso at Nashville, 4:35 p.m.				
Tacoma at Oklahoma City, 5:05 p.m.				
Reno at Colorado Springs, 5:05 p.m.				
Omaha at Salt Lake, 6:05 p.m.				
New Orleans at Fresno, 7:05 p.m.				
Iowa at Las Vegas, 7:05 p.m.				
Round Rock at Sacramento, 7:05 p.m.				
Northwest League				
North Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Everett	9	6	.600	—
Tri-City	7	8	.467	2
Vancouver	7	9	.438	2½
Spokane	6	9	.400	3
South Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Hillsboro	10	5	.667	—
Salem-Keizer	10	6	.625	½
Eugene	8	7	.533	2
Boise	4	11	.267	6
x-clinched first half				
Friday's Games				
Everett 6, Eugene 3				
Vancouver 3, Hillsboro 0				
Salem-Keizer at Spokane, Late				
Boise at Tri-City, Late				
Saturday's Games				
Hillsboro at Hillsboro, 5:03 p.m.				
Everett at Eugene, 6:05 p.m.				
Salem-Keizer at Spokane, 6:30 p.m.				
Boise at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.				
Football				
National Football League				
AFC				
	W	L	T	Pct
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000