

# MLB Royals win first World Series since '85

## Kansas City rallies late to beat Mets in 12th inning

By MIKE FITZPATRICK  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — They worked all season to take one more step in the World Series.

Eric Hosmer wouldn't wait any longer. A daring dash by Hosmer tied the score in the ninth, and those bound-and-determined Kansas City Royals rallied yet again to beat the New York Mets 7-2 in 12 innings early Monday for their first championship since 1985.

One agonizing win from ecstasy last year, this time the Royals reign after their latest incredible comeback and a go-ahead hit in Game 5 from Christian Colon, maybe the most unlikely player in uniform.

So go ahead and crown 'em, Kansas City! The job is finally done.

"From Day One, there was no doubt in my mind that they wouldn't accomplish it. There was no doubt in their mind that they wouldn't accomplish it," manager Ned Yost said. "It's just a special, special group that doesn't come around very often."

Down 2-0 in the ninth, Kansas City fought back against two of the top arms on the pitching-rich Mets: Matt Harvey and Jeurys Familia. And the Royals won it not with power at the plate but instead an aggressive sprint home by Hosmer on a groundout, a three-run double from Lorenzo Cain, a couple of crucial steals.

Consistent contact, keep the line moving. "I couldn't have written a better script," Yost said.

That's how Series MVP Salvador Perez and the Royals became the first team since the 2002 Angels to come from behind in all four World Series wins, according to STATS.

That's how they washed out the bitter taste of last year's Game 7 loss to San Francisco at home, an October heartbreak that drove the Royals to their singular focus all season.

Never waver. Win it all. Wipe away the pain. "Kansas City is No. 1. Who cares about what happened last year?" Perez said.

To get back where they were last fall — 90 feet from tying the Giants in the ninth inning — the Royals played more than 50,000 pitches of baseball and flew nearly 30,000 miles while crisscrossing the country.

Now, this group of homegrown favorites who revitalized a floundering franchise, Mike Moustakas and Alex Gordon and Hosmer to name a few, can finally rest and rejoice.

Not to be forgotten, major contributions from new additions assembled by general manager Dayton Moore like Ben Zobrist, Johnny Cueto, Kendrys Morales, Chris Young and Alex Rios.



Kansas City Royals' Eric Hosmer celebrates after scoring past New York Mets catcher Travis d'Arnaud during the ninth inning of Game 5 of the Major League Baseball World Series Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015, in New York.

### Composite box score

Table with columns for BATTING SUMMARY and PITCHING SUMMARY for NEW YORK METS and KANSAS CITY ROYALS. Includes statistics for players like Colon, Volquez, and Hosmer.



AP Photo/Matt Slocum

"I felt my dad when I was walking to the bullpen, like he was walking behind me, and in the first inning, my feelings were there, like my dad was watching the game. But I was able to calm myself down and do what I was supposed to do."

— Edinson Volquez,

Kansas City Royals starting pitcher in Game 5 of the World Series. The pitcher's father, 63-year-old Daniel Volquez, died of heart failure hours before his son started the Series opener.

## Packed Postseason: Utley, Bautista, Schwarber and Royal way

By BEN WALKER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hours after the final out, there was only one job left to do at empty Citi Field.

So the very last person remaining on the dimly lit diamond climbed into the shiny red Camaro presented to MVP Salvador Perez, turned the ignition and slowly drove along the warning track.

A moment later, the gleaming taillights disappeared through a gap in the left-center field wall.

World Series, over.

Hard to believe a packed post-season began almost a month earlier, a few miles away at Yankee Stadium with a gem by bearded Dallas Keuchel, one of baseball's many bright, new stars.

In between, there sure was a lot for fans to savor and second-guess. A final look back before it's time to move ahead — only 108 days till the first workouts of spring training:

BAUTISTA'S BAT TOSS: To call it a bat flip would be a disservice to Jose Bautista. In the midst of mayhem in Toronto, he sent his stick flying after homering vs. Texas during the deciding Game 5 of AL Division Series. It was likely the most crazy, emotional inning in big league history — the seventh at Rogers Centre included two bench-clearing scuffles, fans throwing debris, police on the field and errors on three straight balls. And it all started when Blue Jays catcher Russell Martin hit Shin-Soo Choo's bat on a routine throw back to the pitcher, letting a run score and prompting an umpires' conference.

UTLEY'S SLIDE: Hard-nosed or dirty, worth a suspension or not? No matter, the damage was done. Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada took a huge hit, as did Chase Utley's popularity.



New York Mets manager Terry Collins watches with David Wright, right, the 11th inning of Game 5 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the Kansas City Royals Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015, in New York.

Tejada's leg was broken and he spent his birthday on crutches, watching his club play in the World Series. Utley drew a two-game penalty for the crash in the NL Division Series and appealed. A hearing might not be held until spring training. By then, Major League Baseball could have a new rule on how runners slide into bases — merely being able to reach the base might not be the standard much longer.

SCHWARBER'S SHOT: The ballhawks roaming outside Wrigley Field are still waiting for Kyle Schwarber's rocket to land. The Chicago rookie launched a drive against St. Louis in the NLDS that landed atop the videoboard in right field, and stayed there. The Cubs made it a moment to remember on the spot, encasing the ball in

Plexiglas. A 22-year-old who began the season in Double-A, Schwarber is among a new crop of guys with great futures who were on display in October and into November — Carlos Correa, Kris Bryant, Noah Syndergaard and many more.

MURPHY'S LAW: Hard to imagine a player making a faster rise and more rapid fall than Daniel Murphy. A contact hitter his whole career, he became a modern-day Babe Ruth by homering in a post-season-record six straight games, connecting off the likes of Clayton Kershaw, Zack Greinke and Jake Arrieta. But just when his value as a free agent-to-be was booming, he hit a wall. The Mets second baseman managed just three singles in the World Series, and the lasting image of him in a New York uniform could

be groundballs bouncing under his glove and off his mitt.

COLLINS' DECISION: Matt Harvey was out of Game 5, done after eight sharp innings that saved the Mets' season. Until he wasn't. Harvey talked Mets manager Terry Collins into letting him stay on the mound, and a 2-0 lead quickly vanished. The Royals rallied to tie it and won the championship in the 12th. Collins owned up to his choice, saying he followed his heart instead of his head. And it wasn't like closer Jeurys Familia struck out every batter he faced over the week. Either way, the debate on what Collins should've done is likely to rage through the winter, and well beyond.

"Obviously I let my heart get in the way of my gut," Collins said early Monday after a crushing season-ending, 12-inning 7-2 defeat. "I love my players. And I trust them. And so I said, 'Go get 'em out.'"

"I won't be sleeping much the next couple of days, I'll tell you that."

KANSAS CITY'S FOUL APPROACH: A liner over the dugout by Ben Zobrist. A tip to the backstop by Alex Gordon. A nubber that nicks the catcher by Lorenzo Cain. Really, has any team turned foul balls into an art like the Royals? Not that they're trying to spoil pitches or prolong at-bats. Yet at a time when many teams preach patience at the plate and seemingly accept higher strikeout rates, Alcides Escobar and his teammates go up there swinging early — and making contact.

"Don't strike out. Imagine that? What a concept," said Hall of Famer George Brett, now a Royals executive. "Put the ball in play, good things happen. Strike out, nothing good happens."

## NBA Lillard scores 34 to lift Blazers

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Damian Lillard had 34 points and seven assists, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat Minnesota 106-101 on Monday night after the Timberwolves honored fallen coach Flip Saunders with an emotional pregame



tribute. Lillard made 14 of 25 shots, C.J. McCollum scored 18 points and Al-Farouq Aminu had 17 points and nine rebounds for Portland, which trailed by 17 points in the first quarter after an inspired start by Minnesota.

Kevin Martin scored 24 points and Ricky Rubio had 12 points, nine assists and nine rebounds for the Timberwolves two days after they attended Saunders' funeral. They whittled a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to three with 10 seconds to play. But Martin was stripped while trying to shoot a 3 and the Blazers hung on.

## NFL Seahawks get back to .500

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Russell Wilson sprinted toward the sideline in search of a first down that could set up the winning points at Dallas.

The star quarterback made the corner, and the defending NFC champion Seahawks found their way back to .500.

Wilson had a scoring pass for the game's only touchdown, and his key run came on a drive to Steven Hauschka's go-ahead 24-yard field goal with 1:06 remaining, leading the Seahawks over the Dallas Cowboys 13-12 Sunday.

Seattle (4-4) improved to an NFL-best 21-6 in games heading into the bye in its second straight win. The Seahawks will see NFC West-leading Arizona in two weeks.

LOCKETTE UNDERGOES NECK SURGERY: Seahawks wide receiver Ricardo Lockette had surgery to stabilize ligaments in his neck Monday, a day after being taken off the field on a backboard just before halftime of Seattle's game at Dallas.

Lockette underwent surgery at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. The Seahawks issued an update Monday evening that the surgery was a success and that all neurological signs were positive. Lockette is expected to stay in the hospital in Dallas for a few days recovering, but could be up and moving around as soon as Tuesday.

"The emotional part of losing one of our guys and knowing he has to go through major surgery and all of that, it's very personal to us. That's all. I think like (a) family feeling, like when someone in your family gets sick, our guys responded in that way," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said on Monday afternoon. "They were very focused to continue to play in the game and all that, which we found out by the way they played in the second half. Today they're just concerned for him and his welfare."

Lockette will miss the rest of the season and his long-term prognosis is still to be determined.

