

World Baseball Classic

Taking WBC seriously, Team USA advances to 2nd round

By STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

MIAMI — Andrew Miller said yes to taking part in the World Baseball Classic when many other top U.S. pitchers said no, including Clayton Kershaw, Noah Syndergaard and Justin Verlander.

As a reward for showing up, Miller gave up two home runs in an inning for the first time since 2011. That fueled a comeback by the Dominican Republic, which rallied from a five-run deficit to beat the U.S. team, delighting a raucous sellout crowd.

An hour after his dismal WBC debut, Miller said he didn't regret deciding to participate.

"I want to pitch in this atmosphere," the Indians' All-Star closer said. "I want to get better at pitching in games like this. I want to play on teams like this. I want to play against lineups like that. At this point in my career, this is the fun stuff you get a chance to take part in."

"Honestly, I never would have thought a couple of years ago I would have had an opportunity to make a roster like this. It's a special thing you get to participate

in. I wish I had performed better, and I hope I get some chances to atone for it."

He will. The Americans bounced back from their deflating loss Saturday to the defending champion Dominicans, and both teams advanced to the second round in San Diego beginning today.

Team USA, a perennial World Baseball Classic underachiever, believes this year will be different. The Americans have never reached the finals, much less won the tournament, and participation has been only so-so because of tepid support by major league teams fearful of injuries to players unaccustomed to going all-out in March.

But this year's roster might be the Americans' best yet, even without many top pitchers. Starters Danny Duffy, Chris Archer and Marcus Stroman combined for 12 2/3 scoreless innings as Team USA went 2-1 in round one. Brandon Crawford and Christian Yelich had five hits each, and Nolan Arenado and Buster Posey homered.

The Dominicans, meanwhile, went 3-0 and are 11-0 in the past two WBCs. Their comeback win over the U.S.



AP Photo/Alan Diaz

United States' Tyler Clippard enters the dugout after striking out the side in the seventh inning in a first-round game of the World Baseball Classic against Canada, Sunday, March 12, 2017, in Miami. The United States won 8-0.

team rocked Marlins Park, packed with spectators from the Caribbean nation.

"That's an atmosphere I've never been a part of," said Duffy, who pitched in

the 2015 World Series. "It was the loudest I've ever heard any place ever."

Enthusiastic fan support by other countries is one reason Duffy, Miller and other American players are glad they're taking part.

But can the U.S. team get spectators in San Diego excited? "If we keep playing our game and keep doing our thing, I think we're going to start drawing some crowds," Arenado said.

The Rockies All-Star made headlines back in Denver when he slid headfirst to reach first base after striking out on a wild pitch against Colombia. He laughed when asked how eager the Americans are for breakthrough WBC success.

"There's no doubt we're taking it real serious," he said. "I'm diving headfirst into first. I mean, I don't know how serious I can take it other than that."

Maximum effort will be needed to get past the Dominicans, who have outscored opponents 62-24 in the past two WBCs. They batted .342 in the first round, and Manny Machado, Nelson Cruz and Sterling Marte homered in the comeback against Team USA.

"The Dominican is a top-to-bottom fearsome lineup," U.S. manager Jim Leyland said. "They have stars all over the field. We've got a lot of stars all over the field. There's a mutual respect there, I think. It wasn't like we were intimidated or embarrassed. We had our shot, and we just didn't quite get it done."

After losing to the Dominicans, Team USA recovered Sunday and eliminated Canada. The Canadians finished 0-3, but manager Ernie Whitt nonetheless joined other participants in praising the WBC.

Whitt noted the enthusiastic crowds and said he's dumbfounded some major league players are reluctant to take part.

"You have to get the general managers and the ownership to buy into it and encourage their players to go," said Whitt, a former All-Star catcher. "I understand their point. They have a vested interest in some of these players with a lot of money. But if they're going to get this to go, they're going to have to go all out and encourage their players to go play for their countries."

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BASEBALL	
Penleton at Southridge (WA) (DH), 2/3:30 p.m.	
Irrigon at Pilot Rock, 4 p.m.	
Umatilla at Touchet (WA), 4 p.m.	
Ridgeview at Hermiston, 4:30 p.m.	
PREP SOFTBALL	
Today	
Hanford (WA) at Penleton, 4 p.m.	
Umatilla at Touchet (WA), 4 p.m.	
Hermiston at Ridgeview, 4:30 p.m.	
COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	
Today	
No. 3 Eastern Oregon vs. No. 1 Saint Francis (NAIA Championships Second Round at Sioux City, Ia.), 1 p.m.	
COLLEGE BASEBALL	
Saturday	
Prairie Baseball Academy at Blue Mountain (DH), 11 a.m./2 p.m.	
Sunday	
Green River at Blue Mountain (DH), 11 a.m./2 p.m.	
COLLEGE SOFTBALL	
Friday	
Great Falls at Eastern Oregon (DH), 2/4 p.m.	
Saturday	
Great Falls at Eastern Oregon (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.	

Miami	32	35	.478	12
Charlotte	29	38	.433	15
New York	26	41	.388	18
Philadelphia	24	42	.364	19½
Orlando	24	44	.353	20½
Brooklyn	12	53	.185	31
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Golden State	52	14	.788	—
x-San Antonio	52	14	.788	—
Houston	46	21	.687	6½
Utah	42	25	.627	10½
L.A. Clippers	40	27	.597	12½
Oklahoma City	37	29	.561	15
Memphis	37	30	.552	15½
Denver	32	35	.478	20½
Portland	29	36	.446	22½
Dallas	28	38	.424	24
Minnesota	28	38	.424	24
New Orleans	26	40	.394	26
Sacramento	26	41	.388	26½
Phoenix	22	45	.328	30½
L.A. Lakers	20	47	.299	32½

Second Round Saturday-Sunday	
Regional Semifinals Friday, March 24	
Regional Championship Sunday, March 26	
SOUTH REGIONAL First Round Thursday	
Milwaukee	vs. Winthrop (26-6), 10:30 a.m.
Butler (23-8) vs. Middle Tennessee (30-4), 1 p.m.	
Friday	
Greenville, S.C.	vs. Seton Hall (21-11), 10:30 a.m.
North Carolina (27-7) vs. Texas Southern (23-11), 1 p.m.	
Indianapolis	vs. Wichita State (30-4), 4:10 p.m.
Kentucky (29-5) vs. Northern Kentucky (24-10), 6:40 p.m.	
Sacramento, Calif.	vs. Kansas State-Wake Forest winner, 4:27 p.m.
UCLA (29-4) vs. Kent State (22-13), 6:57 p.m.	
Second Round Saturday-Sunday	
Regional Semifinals Friday, March 24	
Regional Championship Sunday, March 26	
MIDWEST REGIONAL First Round Thursday	
Milwaukee	vs. Vermont (29-5), 4:27 p.m.
Purdue (25-7) vs. Nevada (28-6), 6:57 p.m.	
Friday	
Indianapolis	vs. Oklahoma State (20-12), 9:15 a.m.
Louisville (24-8) vs. Jacksonville State (20-10), 11:45 a.m.	
Tulsa, Okla.	vs. N.C. Central-UC Davis winner, 3:50 p.m.
Miami (21-11) vs. Michigan State (19-14), 6:20 p.m.	
Sacramento, Calif.	vs. Iowa (22-12), 11 a.m.
Oregon (29-5) vs. Rhode Island (24-9), 1:30 p.m.	
Second Round Saturday-Sunday	
Regional Semifinals Thursday, March 23	
Regional Championship Saturday, March 25	

Regional Semifinals Thursday, March 23	
Regional Championship Saturday, March 25	
FINAL FOUR At University of Phoenix Stadium Glendale, Ariz.	
National Semifinals Saturday, April 1	
East champion vs. West champion	
South champion vs. Midwest champion	
National Championship Monday, April 3	
NCAA Women's Tournament BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL First Round Friday	
At College Park, Md.	
Maryland (30-2) vs. Bucknell (27-5), 9 a.m.	
West Virginia (23-10) vs. Elon (27-6), 11:30 a.m.	
Saturday	
At Storrs, Conn.	
UConn (32-0) vs. Albany (NY) (21-10), 8 a.m.	
Syracuse (21-1) vs. Iowa State (18-12), 10:30 a.m.	
At Los Angeles	
UCLA (23-8) vs. Boise State (25-7), 3:30 p.m.	
Texas A&M (21-11) vs. Penn (22-7), 6 p.m.	
Durham, N.C.	
Temple (24-7) vs. Oregon (20-13), 3:30 p.m.	
Duke (27-5) vs. Hampton (20-12), 6 p.m.	
Second Round Sunday-Monday	
Regional Semifinals Saturday, March 25	
Regional Championship Monday, March 27	

STOCKTON REGIONAL First Round Friday	
At Columbia, S.C.	
S. Carolina (27-4) vs. UNC-Asheville (19-14), 2 p.m.	
Arizona St (19-12) vs. Michigan St (21-11), 4:30 p.m.	
At Tallahassee, Fla.	
Missouri (21-10) vs. South Florida (24-8), 2 p.m.	
Florida St (25-6) vs. W.n Illinois (26-6), 4:30 p.m.	
Corvallis, Ore.	
Oregon State (29-4) vs. Long Beach State (23-10), 2 p.m.	
Craigton (23-7) vs. Toledo (25-8), 4:30 p.m.	
Saturday	
At Coral Gables, Fla.	
Marquette (25-7) vs. Quinnipiac (27-6), 10:30 a.m.	
Miami (23-8) vs. Florida Gulf Coast (26-8), 1 p.m.	
Second Round Sunday-Monday	
Regional Semifinals Saturday, March 25	
Regional Championship Monday, March 27	

VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP Sunday	
At Innisbrook Golf Resort (Copperhead Course)	
Palm Harbor, Fla.	
Purse: \$6.3 million	
Yardage: 7,340; Par: 71	
Final	
Adam Hadwin (500)	68-64-67-71—270
Patrick Cantlay (300)	71-66-66-69—271
Dominic Bozzelli (163)	67-68-70-67—272
Jim Herman (163)	62-71-71-69—272
Tony Finau (110)	67-72-70-64—273
Charl Schwartzel (100)	70-70-67-68—275
Wesley Bryan (88)	68-68-72-68—276
Henrik Stenson (88)	64-71-71-70—276
Russell Henley (78)	64-71-71-70—277
John Huh (78)	69-70-69-69—277
Chad Campbell (65)	71-69-69-69—277
Jason Dufner (65)	68-71-72-67—278
Keith Mitchell	69-70-71-68—278
Alex Cejka (54)	68-70-72-69—279
Graeme McDowell (54)	75-67-70-67—279
J.T. Poston (54)	69-70-69-71—279
Nick Watney (54)	70-69-70-70—279
Lucas Glover (46)	68-70-69-73—280
David Hearn (46)	68-74-68-70—280
Ryan Moore (46)	69-72-68-71—280
Kevin Streelman (46)	71-68-71-70—280
Next	
March, 16-19 — Arnold Palmer Invitational, Bay Hill Golf Club and Lodge, Orlando, Fla.	

Hockey NHL	
Sunday	
Chicago 4, Minnesota 2	
Montreal 4, Edmonton 1	
N.Y. Rangers 4, Detroit 1	
Anaheim 5, Washington 2	
San Jose 5, Dallas 1	
Monday	
Columbus 5, Philadelphia 3	
Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Rangers 2	
Carolina 8, N.Y. Islanders 4	
Nashville 5, Winnipeg 4, OT	
Calgary 4, Pittsburgh 3, SO	
St. Louis 3, Los Angeles 1	
Boston 6, Vancouver 3	
Arizona 1, Colorado 0	
Today	
Minnesota at Washington, 4 p.m.	
N.Y. Islanders at Carolina, 4 p.m.	
Winnipeg at New Jersey, 4 p.m.	
Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 4:30 p.m.	
Toronto at Florida, 4:30 p.m.	

Baseball

World Baseball Classic				
SECOND ROUND Round Robin				
Pool E At Tokyo Dome				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Japan	1	1	01.000	—
Netherlands	1	1	5.000	½
Israel	1	1	5.000	½
Cuba	0	1	0.000	1

Sunday				
Israel 4, Cuba 1				
Japan 8, Netherlands 6, 11 innings				
Monday				
Netherlands 12, Israel 2, 8 innings				
Today				
Cuba vs. Japan, 3 a.m.				
Netherlands vs. Cuba, 8 p.m.				
Wednesday				
Israel vs. Japan, 3 a.m.				
Pool F At Petco Park San Diego				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dominican Republic	0	0	00.000	—
Puerto Rico	0	0	00.000	—
United States	0	0	00.000	—
Venezuela	0	0	00.000	—

Today	
Dominican Republic vs. Puerto Rico, 6 p.m.	
Wednesday	
United States vs. Venezuela, 6 p.m.	
Thursday	
Dominican Republic vs. Venezuela, 7 p.m.	
Friday	
United States vs. Puerto Rico, 7 p.m.	
Saturday	
Fuero Rico vs. Venezuela, 12:30 p.m.	
Dominican Republic vs. United States, 7 p.m.	

Golf

PGA TOUR Valspar Championship Sunday	
At Innisbrook Golf Resort (Copperhead Course)	
Palm Harbor, Fla.	
Purse: \$6.3 million	
Yardage: 7,340; Par: 71	
Final	
Adam Hadwin (500)	68-64-67-71—270
Patrick Cantlay (300)	71-66-66-69—271
Dominic Bozzelli (163)	67-68-70-67—272
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Motorsports

NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Kobalt 400 Sunday	
At Las Vegas Motor Speedway	
Lap length: 1.50 miles	
(Start position in parentheses)	
1. (2) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 267 laps, 0 rating, 60 points	
2. (5) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 267, 0, 52	
3. (12) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 267, 0, 47	
4. (6) Joey Logano, Ford, 267, 0, 39	
5. (1) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 267, 0, 48	
6. (15) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 267, 0, 31	
7. (3) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 267, 0, 43	
8. (10) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 267, 0, 37	
9. (4) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 267, 0, 30	
10. (13) Clint Bowyer, Ford, 267, 0, 27	
11. (16) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 267, 0, 31	
12. (7) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 267, 0, 25	
13. (20) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 267, 0, 24	
14. (30) Eric Almirola, Ford, 267, 0, 23	
15. (8) Erik Jones, Toyota, 267, 0, 22	
16. (18) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 267, 0, 26	
17. (21) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 267, 0, 22	
18. (26) Michael McDowell, Chevrolet, 267, 0, 19	
19. (14) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 267, 0, 18	
20. (11) Daniel Suarez, Toyota, 267, 0, 17	
21. (24) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 267, 0, 16	
22. (9) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 267, 0, 18	
23. (25) Chris Buescher, Chevrolet, 266, 0, 14	
24. (23) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 266, 0, 13	
25. (22) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 266, 0, 12	
26. (31) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford, 265, 0, 11	
27. (27) Landon Cassill, Ford, 264, 0, 10	
28. (32) Cole Whitt, Ford, 264, 0, 9	
29. (32) David Ragan, Ford, 264, 0, 8	
30. (17) Kurt Busch, Ford, 263, 0, 7	
31. (37) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 262, 0, 6	
32. (36) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 262, 0, 5	
33. (29) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 261, 0, 4	
34. (35) Greg Boudreau, Toyota, 260, 0, 3	
35. (38) Derrin Cope, Chevrolet, 256, 0, 2	
36. (28) Danica Patrick, Ford, engine, 246, 0, 1	
37. (39) Timmy Hill, Chevrolet, suspension, 135, 0, 0	