

World Baseball Classic

Jones, Hosmer homer to lift US to victory over Venezuela

By **BERNIE WILSON**
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SAN DIEGO (AP) — Hometown favorite Adam Jones hit a tying home run leading off the eighth inning and Eric Hosmer added a two-run shot three batters later as the United States rallied to beat Venezuela 4-2 on Wednesday night in the second round of the World Baseball Classic.

After being shut down for the first five innings by Seattle Mariners ace Felix Hernandez, the Americans broke through against Venezuela's bullpen.

Hosmer, the MVP of the 2016 All-Star Game at Petco Park, singled leading off the seventh and scored on Jonathan Lucroy's sacrifice fly.

Hector Rondon (0-1) started the eighth for

Venezuela and Jones, who played at Morse High about 8 miles east of Petco Park, homered to right-center to tie it at 2. Christian Yelich singled and Nolan Arenado flied out before Hosmer muscled a shot an estimated 418 feet to right-center for the lead.

Hosmer hit a solo homer and an RBI single in the American League's 4-2 win at the 2016 All-Star Game in San Diego.

Luke Gregerson of the Houston Astros, who played his first five big league seasons with the San Diego



AP Photo/Alex Gallardo

United States' Eric Hosmer watches his two-run home run in front of Venezuela catcher Robinson Chirinos during the eighth inning of a second-round World Baseball Classic game in San Diego on Wednesday.

Padres, pitched the ninth for the save.

Pat Neshek (1-0), who had a brief stint with the Padres in 2011, worked the

eighth for the win.

Hernandez scattered three singles, struck out three and walked none. King Felix made it

through two heart-stopping moments in the first. He appeared to tweak something in his right leg while fielding Jones' swinging bunt and throwing him out for the second out. After being checked by a trainer and throwing two warmup pitches, Hernandez stayed in the game. Yelich then hit a comebacker that knocked Hernandez's glove off. With a befuddled look on his face, the pitcher picked up the ball and threw out Yelich to end the inning.

The Americans threatened only once against Hernandez, and failed to come through. He allowed three straight singles to Lucroy, Alex Bregman and Ian Kinsler with one out in the third before Jones grounded into a double play. Rougned Odor homered

with two outs in the seventh for a 2-0 lead for Venezuela, which beat Italy 4-3 in a tiebreaker game in Guadalajara, Mexico, on Monday night to advance out of Pool D.

Odor homered to right off David Robertson. Knowing it was gone, the Texas Rangers second baseman clapped his hands as he broke out of the box. On Monday night, he hit a high drive to left-center and stood and watched as it bounced off the top of the wall and back into play for a go-ahead RBI single in the ninth inning.

Ender Inciarte had a sacrifice fly in the third for Venezuela.

UP NEXT

The United States next faces Puerto Rico on Friday at 7 p.m. in San Diego.

BLAZERS: Two games behind Denver for final West playoff spot

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entering the game but fell one game behind Golden State for the league's best record.

Aldridge had 19 points and seven rebounds, including nine points in the final quarter.

"I felt like my rhythm was good early and then I think my touch was off around the rim. That kind of bothered me," Aldridge said. "I definitely played better at the end. It's the first game back. I'll get better."

Trailing 104-97 with 1:45 remaining, San Antonio closed within two points as Aldridge scored five consecutive points on a layup and a powerful dunk that led to a three-point play. After Leonard missed a short runner, McCollum

made a pair of free throws to end the Spurs' streak and give Portland a 106-102 lead.

Patty Mills then hit a 3-pointer from the right corner off a feed from Leonard, but Lillard made four straight free throws to seal the victory for the Trail Blazers.

After shooting 30 percent from the field against New Orleans, Portland rebounded to 48 percent against San Antonio.

"We talked about it, because it's something you can't just say, 'Aw, we got beat,'" Lillard said. "You've got to address the things that we didn't do well and the things we've got to do better if we want to have this run we're trying to put together. But that was it. We didn't have a big intervention,

nothing like that."

The Blazers (30-37) moved two games behind the Denver Nuggets (32-35) for the final playoff berth in the West.

Portland closed the third quarter on a 9-3 run in taking an 82-80 lead to set up their fourth-quarter heroics.

The Spurs struggled to stop Lillard and McCollum, who shot a combined 20 for 38. The duo also had four assists each.

"Lillard and McCollum were super, but I thought they executed their offense great," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "We just didn't guard them tonight as well as we needed to."

TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Lillard has scored 30 points in six of 11 games since returning from

the All-Star break. ... Portland was without F Ed Davis (left shoulder), C Festus Ezeli (left knee) and F Evan Turner (right hand). ... The Blazers improved to 7-4 when Lillard, McCollum, Noah Vonleh, Jusuf Nurkic and Maurice Harkless start. ... Portland is 80-83 against San Antonio overall after snapping a five-game skid against the Spurs.

Spurs: Aldridge has scored 1,000 points for a 10th straight season, joining LeBron James and Dwyane Wade as the only active players with that streak. ... G Tony Parker missed his fourth straight game with back stiffness. The 34-year-old has missed 16 games this season after sitting out 10 games last year. ... Leonard has scored in double figures in 94

straight games dating to Jan. 14, 2016. He has scored 30-plus points in 25 games this season.

GOOD TO BE BACK

Aldridge said he felt good after having to exit his previous game while complaining of feeling odd against Oklahoma City.

"This is something that I've dealt with since my first year," Aldridge said. "There's been a protocol put in place that if I felt like something changed, we'd do some research. I went and saw some people."

Aldridge was diagnosed with Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome — an abnormality that can cause a rapid heartbeat — as a rookie in 2007. He missed the final seven games of his first season while he was with Portland and also

was held out 10 days in the preseason in 2011.

Aldridge finished 9 for 24 from the field and played 32 minutes. He made his first two attempts, a 17-foot jumper and a 21-footer, drawing loud cheers from the sold-out crowd.

"We were a little worried, a little concerned," San Antonio veteran Manu Ginobili said. "Those type of issues is not a hand, an ankle, a knee, something like that. Pretty important organ (the heart). When we heard he was fine, healthy and ready to be back with the team, it was a great feeling besides the point of playing today or not. The important thing is he's healthy."

UP NEXT

Trail Blazers: At Atlanta on Saturday night.

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BASEBALL

Today
Touchet (WA) at Umatilla (DH), 1:30/4 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Weston-McEwen, 3:30 p.m.
Tri-Cities Prep at Stanfield, 4 p.m.
Friday
Joseph at Pilot Rock (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.
Columbia (WA) at Riverside (DH), 2/4:30 p.m.
Saturday
Pendleton vs. Oak Harbor (WA) (at Hanford), 11 a.m.
Stanfield at DeSales (WA), 11 a.m.
Elgin at Mac-Hi, Noon
Pendleton at Hanford (WA), 2 p.m.
La Salle at Hermiston, 2 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Today
Touchet (WA) at Umatilla (DH), 1:30/4 p.m.
Union at Echo, 3 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Weston-McEwen, 3:30 p.m.
Friday
Riverside at Elgin (DH), 1/3:30 p.m.
Hillsboro at Pendleton, 4 p.m.
St. Helens at Hermiston, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
Watsburg (WA) at Irrigon (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.
Pilot Rock at Echo, 11 a.m.
Hillsboro at Hermiston, Noon
St. Helens at Pendleton, Noon

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Today
Hermiston vs. Hood River (dual), 2 p.m.
Heppner at Condon Invitational, 2 p.m.

PREP GOLF

Today
Heppner, Echo, Hermiston JV at Echo Hills Golf Club, 10 a.m.
Pendleton (boys) at Walla Walla Country Club, TBD
Mac-Hi (boys/girls) at Wine Valley, 2 p.m.
Friday
Pendleton, Hermiston (boys) at The Dalles Country Club, 10 a.m.

PREP TENNIS

Today
Stanfield at Riverside, 3:30 p.m.
Hermiston (boys/girls) at Kamiaki (WA), 4 p.m.
Friday
Mac-Hi (boys) at Pendleton, 3:30 p.m.
Pendleton (girls) at Mac-Hi, 3:30 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.

Prep Scores

PREP BASEBALL

Class 6A
WEST LINN 3, Lincoln 2
Tigard 4, SUNSET 3
Sherwood 10, SANDY 0
Milwaukie 10, LIBERTY 0
Class 5A
WILSONVILLE 12, Silverton 0
Sisters 12, MOUNTAIN VIEW 4
BEND 10, Madras 0, 5 innings
Redmond 11, CROOK COUNTY 6
CROOK COUNTY 9, Redmond 6
Class 4A
North Marion 14, ASTORIA 9

PREP SOFTBALL

Class 6A
South Salem 4, MILWAUKIE 0
Reynolds 9, SUNSET 7
CLACKAMAS 12, St. Helens 2
Jesuit 2, Putnam 1
Class 5A
Bend 11, MADRAS 2
Crook County 13, MOUNTAIN VIEW 3
CRATER 8, Del Norte (CA) 1
Class 3A
BONANZA 16, Lakeview 3, 5 innings

Basketball

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
1. Cleveland	44	22	.667	—
2. Boston	43	25	.632	2
3. Washington	41	26	.612	3½
4. Toronto	39	28	.582	5½
5. Atlanta	37	30	.552	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
1. x-Golden State	53	14	.791	—
2. x-San Antonio	52	15	.776	1
3. x-Houston	47	21	.691	6½
4. Utah	43	25	.632	10½
5. L.A. Clippers	40	28	.588	13½
6. Oklahoma City	38	29	.567	15
7. Memphis	38	30	.559	15½
8. Denver	32	35	.478	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	30	37	.448	23
Dallas	29	38	.433	24
Minnesota	28	39	.418	25
Sacramento	27	41	.397	26½
New Orleans	27	41	.397	26½
Phoenix	22	46	.324	31½
L.A. Lakers	20	48	.294	33½

Wednesday's Games

Dallas 112, Washington 107
Indiana 98, Charlotte 77
Boston 117, Minnesota 104
Miami 120, New Orleans 112
Utah 97, Detroit 83
Houston 139, L.A. Lakers 100
Memphis 98, Chicago 91
Portland 110, San Antonio 106
Sacramento 107, Phoenix 101
Milwaukie 97, L.A. Clippers 96

Thursday's Games

Oklahoma City at Toronto, 4 p.m.
Utah at Cleveland, 4 p.m.
Brooklyn at New York, 4:30 p.m.
Memphis at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA NCAA Tournament

FIRST FOUR
Dayton, Ohio
Tuesday
Mount St. Mary's 67, New Orleans 66
Kansas State 95, Wake Forest 88
Today
UC Davis 67, NC Central 63
USC 75, Providence 71

EAST REGIONAL First Round

Today
Buffalo, N.Y.
Villanova (31-3) vs. Mount St. Mary's, 4:10 p.m.
Wisconsin (25-9) vs. Virginia Tech (22-10), 6:40 p.m.
Orlando, Fla.
Virginia (22-10) vs. UNC Wilmington (29-5), 9:40 a.m.
Florida (24-8) vs. ETSU (27-7), 12:10 p.m.
Friday
Greenville, S.C.
Duke (27-8) vs. Troy (22-14), 4:20 p.m.
South Carolina (22-10) vs. Marquette (19-12), 6:50 p.m.
Tulsa, Okla.
Baylor (25-7) vs. New Mexico State (28-5), 9:40 a.m.
SMU (29-4) vs. Southern Cal (25-9), 12:10 p.m.

Second Round

Saturday-Sunday
Regional Semifinals
Friday, March 24
Regional Championship
Sunday, March 26

SOUTH REGIONAL First Round

Today
Milwaukee
Butler (23-8) vs. Winthrop (26-6), 10:30 a.m.
Minnesota (24-9) vs. Middle Tennessee (30-4), 1 p.m.
Friday
Greenville, S.C.
Arkansas (25-9) vs. Seton Hall (21-11), 10:30 a.m.
North Carolina (27-7) vs. Texas Southern (23-11), 1 p.m.
Indianapolis
Dayton (24-7) vs. Wichita State (30-4), 4:10 p.m.
Kentucky (29-5) vs. Northern Kentucky (24-10), 6:40 p.m.
Sacramento, Calif.
Cincinnati (29-5) vs. Kansas State, 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

Today
Milwaukee
Purdue (25-7) vs. Vermont (29-5), 4:27 p.m.
Iowa State (23-10) vs. Nevada (28-6), 6:57 p.m.

Friday

Indianapolis
Michigan (24-11) vs. Oklahoma State (20-12), 9:15 a.m.
Louisville (24-8) vs. Jacksonville State (20-14), 11:45 a.m.
Tulsa, Okla.
Kansas (28-4) vs. UC Davis, 3:50 p.m.
Miami (21-11) vs. Michigan State (19-14), 6:20 p.m.
Sacramento, Calif.
Oregon (29-5) vs. Iona (22-12), 11 a.m.
Creighton (25-9) vs. Rhode Island (24-9), 1:30 p.m.

Second Round

Saturday-Sunday
Regional Semifinals
Thursday, March 23
Regional Championship
Saturday, March 25

WEST REGIONAL First Round

Today
Buffalo, N.Y.
Notre Dame (25-9) vs. Princeton (23-6), 9:15 a.m.
West Virginia (26-8) vs. Bucknell (26-8), 11:45 a.m.
Orlando, Fla.
Maryland (24-8) vs. Xavier (21-13), 3:50 p.m.

Florida State (25-8) vs. Florida Gulf Coast (26-7), 6:20 p.m.

Salt Lake City

Gonzaga (32-1) vs. South Dakota State (18-16), 11 a.m.
Northwestern (23-11) vs. Vanderbilt (19-15), 1:30 p.m.
Saint Mary's (28-4) vs. VCU (26-8), 4:20 p.m.

Arizona (30-4) vs. North Dakota (22-9), 6:50 p.m.

Second Round

Saturday
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.

At 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

Today
At Columbia, S.C.
South Carolina (27-4) vs. UNC-Asheville (19-14), 2 p.m.
Arizona State (19-12) vs. Michigan State (21-11), 4:30 p.m.
At Tallahassee, Fla.
Missouri (21-10) vs. South Florida (24-8), 6:40 p.m.
Florida State (25-6) vs. Western Illinois (26-6), 4:30 p.m.
Corvallis, Ore.
Oregon State (29-4) vs. Long Beach State (23-10), 2 p.m.
Creighton (23-7) vs. Toledo (25-8), 4:30 p.m.

Saturday

Hockey

NHL EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	70	39	23	8	86	191	176
Ottawa	69	39	22	7	85	183	175
Boston	70	38	26	6	82	201	181
Tampa Bay	69	34	26	9	77	191	187
Toronto	68	31	23	14	76	206	206
Florida	68	30	27	11	71	175	195
Buffalo	70	28	30	12	68	178	207
Detroit	68	26	31	11	63	167	205

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	69	45	17	7	97	222	154
Pittsburgh	69	43	17	9	95	239	194
Columbus	68	44	18	6	94	219	160
N.Y. Rangers	70	44	24	2	90	225	183
N.Y. Islanders	6						