

Astros’ Springer wins World Series MVP

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — George Springer hit so many clutch home runs, he was a clear pick for World Series MVP.

He often was the Most Vocal Person, too — and that might be the most remarkable part of his story.

The Houston leadoff man hammered his way to the award, homering and doubling Wednesday night to boost the Astros to their first championship with a 5-1 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 7.

“The wildness of this series, the wackiness of this series, the emotional ups and downs, being able to play in this is something that I will never, ever forget, even if this is the only time I will ever get here,” he said.

He launched a Series record-tying five homers, including shots in each of the final four games, and celebrated those Springer Dingers by hollering around the bases.

On baseball’s big stage, the Dodgers couldn’t stop him.

Springer tied Reggie Jackson (1977) and Chase Utley (2009) for the most home runs in a Series. The UConn product became the first hitter to homer four games in a row during a single Series, and also set the mark with eight extra-base hits.

Springer led off Game 7 with a double and scored.



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Houston Astros’ George Springer reacts after hitting a two-run home run during the second inning of Game 7 of baseball’s World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday in Los Angeles.

In the second, his two-run homer made it 5-0 and finished Yu Darvish.

“I just remember swinging and hearing the sound of the bat, and I knew it was a good sound. And then I saw the flight of the ball. And I got to first base and I rounded third, and got home and that’s a crazy feeling. It’s a very surreal feeling because this is Game 7. This is what you dream of as a kid. And for that to happen is indescribable,” he said.

Springer bounced back fast from a tough start, when he struck out all four at-bats in the opener, extending his slump to 3 for 30. He looked lost at the plate facing Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, but manager A.J. Hinch firmly said Springer

would stay atop the lineup.

Good move. Springer went 11 for 25 the rest of the way.

“The first game of the World Series obviously wasn’t the best game for me, wasn’t the best game for anybody,” he said. “But I learned from it. And I learned how to kind of keep my emotions in check. I learned how to slow my breathing down, slow myself down, because this is a time where it’s not just a game in June and then you’re going to come back again the next day and play. This is for everything.”

He hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the 11th inning of a Game 2 win at Dodger Stadium. He doubled during a victory in Game 3, and homered again in a Game

WORLD SERIES: Astros win in 56th year of team

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Utley — when he connected for a record fourth game in a row, making it 5-0 in the second.

That was plenty for Astros manager A.J. Hinch. He pulled starter Lance McCullers Jr. soon after the curveballer crazily plunked his fourth batter of the game, and began a bullpen parade of four relievers that kept the lead.

Forever known for their space-age Astrodome, outlandish rainbow jerseys and a handful of heart-breaking playoff losses, these Astros will be remembered as champions, finally, in their 56th season.

The club that wears a star on its hat also filled out the Texas trophy case. Teams from the Lone Star State had won most every major crown — Super Bowl, NBA and NHL titles, championships in college football, and men’s and women’s hoops — except the World Series.

Built on the skills of homegrown All-Stars Carlos Correa, Dallas Keuchel and more, and boosted by the slick trade for Justin Verlander, general manager Jeff Luhnow completed the ascent that some predicted.

Famously, now, there was



AP Photo/Alex Gallardo

The Houston Astros’ Carlos Correa celebrates with the trophy after their win against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 7 of baseball’s World Series Wednesday in Los Angeles.

the Sports Illustrated cover in 2014 — after Houston had lost more than 100 games for three straight years — that proclaimed: “Your 2017 World Series Champs” and featured a picture of Springer in a bright Astros jersey.

Houston won 101 times this year to take the AL West, then won Games 6 and 7 at home in the AL Championship Series. The Astros joined the 1985 Royals as the only clubs to win a pair of Game 7s in the same year.

For the Dodgers, the quest to win a Series for the first time since 1988 fell short. They led the majors with 104 wins and a \$240

million payroll, yet it didn’t pay off for part-owner Magic Johnson or manager Dave Roberts.

Longtime ace Clayton Kershaw provided four shutout innings of relief for Los Angeles, but it was too late. What the Dodgers really needed was a better starter than Darvish, someone more like the lefty who tossed out a ceremonial first ball: the great Sandy Koufax.

After Springer lined a leadoff double, Alex Bregman hit a bouncer that first baseman Cody Bellinger threw past Darvish for an error, allowing a run to score. Bregman aggressively

4 loss.

He connected for a huge homer in Game 5, moments after an ill-advised dive for a sinking liner that skipped past him. He later drew a two-out walk in the 10th that set up the winning run at Minute Maid Park.

Springer hit a solo home run in Game 6 that put the Astros ahead in a game they eventually lost 3-1.

His final Series line: a .379 average, seven RBIs and a 1.000 slugging percentage.

Springer rallied from a rugged showing in the AL Championship Series, when he batted just .115 (3 for 26) without an extra-base hit or RBI in seven games against the Yankees.

That came after his fourth and most productive season in the majors, when he set career highs by hitting .283 with 34 home runs and 85 RBIs.

His production follows his pedigree.

Drafted 11th overall by the Astros out of Connecticut in 2011, George Chelston Springer III comes from a family of athletes. His dad pitched in the Little League World Series, his mom was an accomplished gymnast, and his two sisters played softball in college.

In fact, Springer wears No. 4 to represent the four members of his immediate family. Engaged to be married in January, Springer won’t be able to bump up to No. 5 — the Astros retired that jersey for Hall of Famer Jeff Bagwell.

stole third and scored on Altuve’s grounder, and it was 2-0 after eight pitches.

A double by Marwin Gonzalez helped set up perhaps McCullers’ biggest contribution, a slow grounder for his first pro RBI. Springer followed with a no-doubt, two-run drive into the left-center field bleachers.

That was the Series-most 25th homer in a Major League Baseball season that set a record for home runs. It was easily enough for the Astros to offset pinch-hitter Andre Ethier’s RBI single in the Los Angeles sixth.

Only once have the Dodgers clinched a crown at home, that coming in 1963 when Koufax outpitched Yankees star Whitey Ford to finish a sweep. They’ve never won Game 7 of the Fall Classic at their own park, dating more than a century ago to their days on the streets of Brooklyn as the Trolley Dodgers.

As pockets of Houston fans got louder and louder in the later innings, the crowd at Dodger Stadium was left to repeat the sad, but hopeful cry that used to echo in Brooklyn: Wait till next year.

Just 106 days until pitchers and catchers report to spring training.

SCOREBOARD			
Local slate			
PREP FOOTBALL			
Friday No. 15 Stanfield at No. 2 Monroe (2A first round), 6 p.m. No. 14 La Salle Prep at No. 3 Hermiston (5A first round), 7 p.m. No. 13 Pendleton at No. 4 Churchill (5A first round), 7 p.m. No. 11 Echo at No. 6 Falls City (1A first round), 7 p.m.			
PREP VOLLEYBALL			
Friday No. 9 Neah-Kah-Nie at No. 8 Heppner (2A first round), 1 p.m. No. 13 Arlington at No. 4 Crane (1A first round), 1 p.m.			
PREP BOYS SOCCER			
Saturday Oregon Episcopal at Riverside (3A/2A/1A quarterfinals), TBD Cottage Grove at McLoughlin (4A quarterfinals), TBD Hermiston at Bend (5A quarterfinals), TBD			
PREP CROSS COUNTRY			
Friday Heppner at 3A/2A/1A State Championships (Lane Community College), 10:35 a.m. Mac-Hi at 4A State Championships (Lane Community College), 11:15 a.m. Hermiston at 5A State Championships (Lane Community College), 1:15 p.m.			
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL			
Friday BMCC at Spokane, 6 p.m.			
COLLEGE FOOTBALL			
Saturday Montana Tech. at College of Idaho, 12 p.m.			
COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY			
Saturday EOU, Cascade Conference Championships (Lane Farms)			
Prep Scores			
OSAA PLAYOFFS			
Wednesday Boys Soccer 6A Second Round Grants Pass 2, Cleveland 1 (OT, PK 5-4) South Eugene 2, Forest Grove 1 Jesuit 7, South Salem 1 Westview 4, Sunset 3 North Salem 2, Franklin 0 Grant 1, Liberty 0			
Aloha at Tigard 7:00pm Lake Oswego 3, West Linn 2 (OT) 5A First Round Bend 2, Crescent Valley 1 (OT) Hermiston 1, Hillsboro 0 (OT) Corvallis 4, Sandy 3 (OT, PK 4-3) Parkrose 3, Summit 2 (OT, PK 5-4) Marist Catholic 1, Central 0 Hood River Valley 4, Silverton 1 Woodburn 2, Ashland 1 La Salle Prep 2, South Albany 1 (OT) 4A First Round Madras 3, Hidden Valley 0 Brookings-Harbor 3, North Valley 0 Newport 2, Phoenix 1 Stayton 4, Astoria 0 Medalla 5, Valley Catholic 1 Seaside 4, Philomath 1 McLoughlin 3, Mazama 1 Cottage Grove 3, La Grande 2 3A/2A/1A First Round Taft 7, Nyssa 0 Riverdale 3, Gervais 0 Western Mennonite 2, Illinois Valley 0 Catin Gabel 4, Cascade Christian 1 St. Mary's-Medford 6, Santiam Christian 0 De La Salle North Catholic 1, Delphian 0 Riverside 11, Creswell 1 Oregon Episcopal 2, Pleasant Hill 0			
Baseball			
MLB POSTSEASON			
WORLD SERIES Houston 4, L.A. Dodgers 3 Game 1: L.A. Dodgers 3, Houston 1 Game 2: Houston 7, L.A. Dodgers 6, 11 innings Game 3: Houston 5, L.A. Dodgers 3 Game 4: L.A. Dodgers 6, Houston 2 Game 5: Houston 13, L.A. Dodgers 12, 10 innings Game 6: L.A. Dodgers 3, Houston 1 Game 7: Houston 5, L.A. Dodgers 1			
Football			
NFL			
Week 9 Thursday's Game Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, 5:25 p.m. Sunday's Games Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 10 a.m. Baltimore at Tennessee, 10 a.m. L.A. Rams at N.Y. Giants, 10 a.m. Cincinnati at Jacksonville, 10 a.m. Indianapolis at Houston, 10 a.m. Atlanta at Carolina, 10 a.m. Denver at Philadelphia, 10 a.m. Arizona at San Francisco, 1:05 p.m. Washington at Seattle, 1:05 p.m. Kansas City at Dallas, 1:25 p.m. Oakland at Miami, 5:30 p.m.			
Soccer			
MLS Playoffs			
Conference Semifinals First leg Eastern Conference Oct. 30: Toronto 2, New York 1 Oct. 31: Columbus 4, New York City FC 1 Western Conference Oct. 29: Vancouver 0, Seattle 0, tie Oct. 30: Portland 0, Houston 0, tie Second leg Eastern Conference Sunday, Nov. 5: New York at Toronto, Noon			
Monday's Game			
Detroit at Green Bay, 5:30 p.m.			
NCAA			
Top 25 Schedule Friday No. 22 Memphis at Tulsa, 5 p.m. (ESPN2) Saturday No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 19 LSU, 5 p.m. (CBS) No. 2 Georgia vs. South Carolina, 12:30 p.m. (CBS) No. 3 Ohio State at Iowa, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN) No. 4 Wisconsin at Indiana, 9 a.m. (ABC) No. 5 Notre Dame vs. Wake Forest, 12:30 p.m. (NBC) No. 6 Clemson at No. 20 NC State, 12:30 p.m. (ABC) No. 7 Penn State at No. 24 Michigan State, 9 a.m. (FOX) No. 8 Oklahoma at No. 11 Oklahoma State, 1 p.m. (FS1) No. 9 Miami vs. No. 13 Virginia Tech, 5 p.m. (ABC) No. 10 TCU vs. Texas, 4:15 p.m. (ESPN) No. 12 Washington vs. Oregon, 7 p.m. (FS1) No. 14 Iowa State at West Virginia, 12:30 p.m. (ESPN2) No. 15 UCF at SMU, 4:15 p.m. (ESPN2) No. 16 Auburn at Texas A&M, 9 a.m. (ESPN) No. 17 USC vs. No. 23 Arizona, 7:45 p.m. (ESPN) No. 18 Stanford at No. 25 Washington State, 12:30 p.m. (FOX) No. 21 Mississippi State vs. UMass, 9 a.m. (ESPN)			
Pac-12 Schedule			
Friday UCLA at Utah, 6:30 p.m. (FS1) Saturday Stanford at Washington State, 12:30 p.m. (FOX) Oregon State at Cal, 2 p.m. (PAC12) Colorado at Arizona State, 6 p.m. (PAC12) Oregon at Washington, 7 p.m. (FS1) Arizona at USC, 7:45 p.m. (ESPN)			
Sunday, Nov. 5: Columbus at New York City FC, 2 p.m.			
Western Conference			
Thursday, Nov. 2: Vancouver at Seattle, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN) Sunday, Nov. 5: Houston at Portland, 4:30 p.m.			
Hockey			
NHL			
Wednesday's Games Chicago 3, Philadelphia 0 Pittsburgh 3, Edmonton 2 Toronto 3, Anaheim 1 New Jersey 2, Vancouver 0 San Jose 4, Nashville 1 Thursday's Games Vegas at Boston, 4 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 4 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m. Columbus at Florida, 4:30 p.m. Detroit at Ottawa, 4:30 p.m. Dallas at Winnipeg, 5 p.m. Montreal at Minnesota, 5 p.m. Philadelphia at St. Louis, 5 p.m. Carolina at Colorado, 6 p.m. Pittsburgh at Calgary, 6 p.m. Buffalo at Arizona, 7 p.m. Toronto at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.			
NBA			
Wednesday's Games Charlotte 126, Milwaukee 121 Indiana 124, Cleveland 107 Philadelphia 119, Atlanta 109 Phoenix 122, Washington 116 Boston 113, Sacramento 86 Miami 97, Chicago 91 Houston 119, New York 97 Minnesota 104, New Orleans 98 Orlando 101, Memphis 99 Denver 129, Toronto 111 Utah 112, Portland 103, OT L.A. Clippers 119, Dallas 98 Thursday's Games Golden State at San Antonio, 5 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Portland, 7:30 p.m.			



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Riverside's Kevin Madrigal shoots the ball between Creswell's Nick Bronson (13) and Grant Marshall in the Pirate's win on Wednesday in Boardman.

SOCCKER:

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third. The Bulldogs held the Pirates off for about 10 minutes before Riverside continued its scoring affair.

Junior Francisco Chavez and senior Jose Peralta scored back-to-back goals within the 60th minute, and senior Misael Madrigal found the back of the net minutes later to push the lead to 8-0.

Misael would be good for one more goal on the night and fellow seniors Alexis Mendoza and Quincey Castillo scored the final two goals for the double-digit win.

Creswell was finally about to score its own goal in the 77th minute when senior Tristen Ward went one-on-one with Ruelas, and came out the victor. Ward's lone goal prevented Riverside's eight shut out of the season — two of which were 11-0.

Riverside will host Oregon Episcopal on Saturday in the quarterfinals. The time has yet to be determined.

5A FIRST ROUND

HERMISTON 1, HILLSBORO 0 — Hermiston made the three-plus hour trip west to face No. 3 Hillsboro in the first round of the 5A playoffs. The Bulldogs entered the match ranked No. 14, but just as head coach Rich Harshberger has said all season that ranking doesn't reflect Hermiston's efforts on the pitch.

In a heavily defensive game against the Spartans, but the Bulldogs had just enough left in the tank to grind out a 1-0 overtime victory.

There were a couple of early chances for Hermiston to get on the board, but the Bulldogs (10-3-3) just couldn't execute the early opportunities.

The Spartans (11-4-1) brought high pressure, as Hermiston was expecting, but the defense and efforts of junior goalkeeper Juan Navarrete solidified the shutout.

"I've got to give a lot of create to the back line," Harshberger said, "and Juan's shutout, which was huge, was a key to our victory."

There was a goal scare late in the second half when Hillsboro scored on a set piece, but the goal was called back as a Spartan was offside when he scored.

Other than that chance Hillsboro didn't get a lot of quality attacks, Harshberger added, and the scoreless 80 minutes put the Round 1 game into overtime.

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Andrew James
Hermiston High School • Senior - Football

Andrew James earned the Great American Rivalry Series MVP after his performance against Pendleton on Friday. James led the Hermiston Bulldogs to a 42-15 win by recording 333 total yards and five total touchdowns.

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